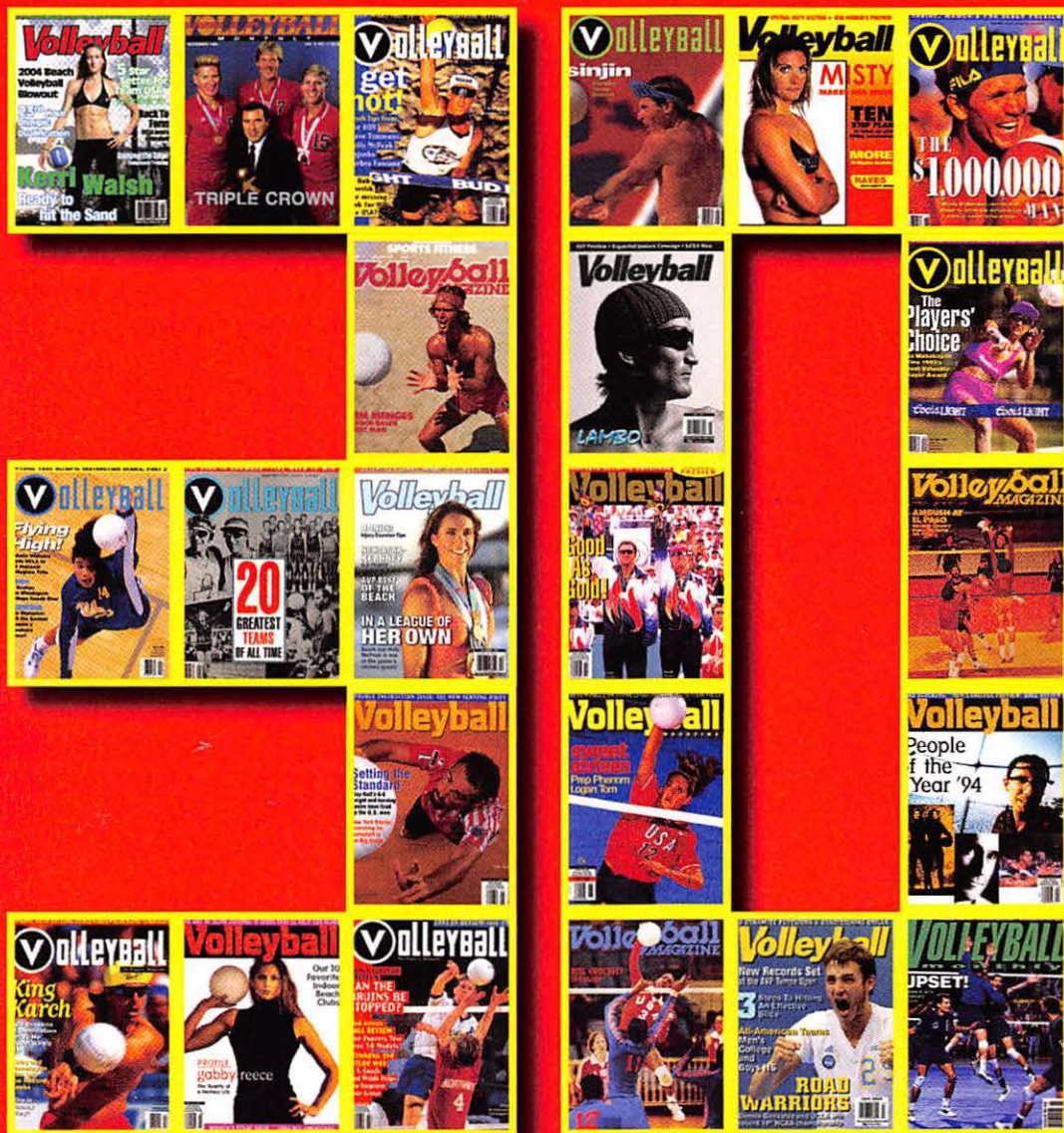


SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE

Volleyball

BONUS:
Transition
Drills



30
MOST
Recognizable
VOLLEYBALL
NAMES

KARCH
ONE
MORE
YEAR

THREE DECADES OF VOLLEYBALL

Plus: 06 Hall of Fame Induction
UCLA's Nana Meriwether
Indoor great Steve Timmons
BYU Men Under NCAA Review

DECEMBER 2006



VOLLEYBALLMAG.COM

MADAVOR MEDIA

molten®

For the real game

Respect the Past,
Believe in
the Future



The Official Volleyball of the AVCA

Official Volleyball for the NCAA Division I, II,
and III Women's Volleyball Championships

1- 800-477-1994 • www.moltenusa.com

Trademarks owned by Molten U.S.A., Inc. Molten Corp. 2005. www.moltenusa.com NCAA is a trademark of the National Collegiate Athletic Association



GET WITH THE STRENGTH

When your continued performance means the right gear, labels matter. It has never been about trend, it has always been about brands that you can trust. Brands that work as hard as you do. Sports gear that supports your performance.

Bauerfeind is a label to remember. A label that backs you when you most need it, whether you are trying to prevent a serious injury, or you are injured and need speedy and sound rehabilitation.

Bauerfeind therapeutic products have long stood for quality and cutting-edge research. They bring you state-of-the-art products, like the MalleoLoc, that have won awards for innovation in design and materials. The MalleoLoc will help stabilize your ankle without hindering your athletic performance. Use it after an injury to help speed your recovery, or use it as a preventative measure, before an injury sidelines you.

Get with the Strength. Accept no substitutes.

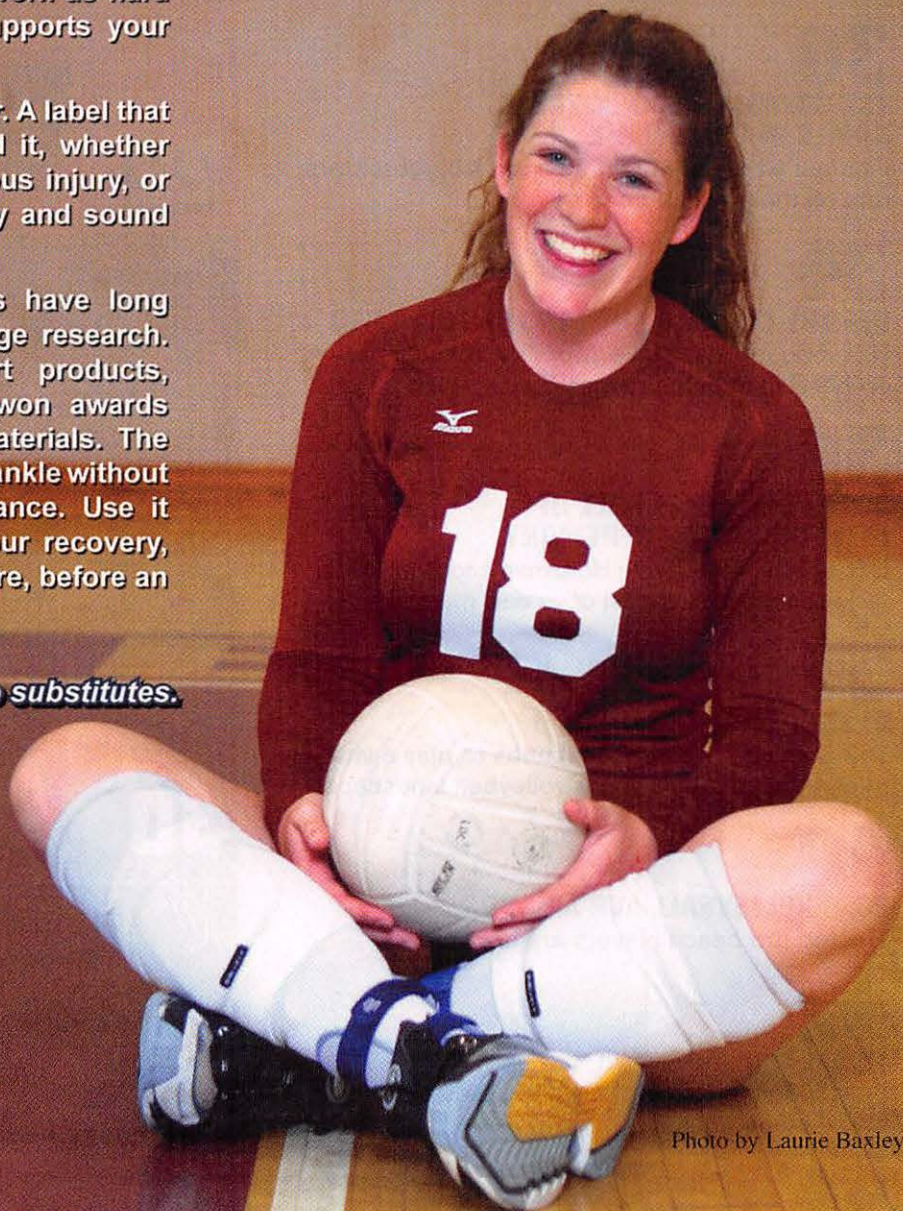


Photo by Laurie Baxley

MEDICAL LINE

PHLEBOLOGY

ORTHOPEDICS

FOOT ORTHOPEDICS

PROSTHETICS

Visit our booth at these upcoming events:



ACCEPT NO SUBSTITUTES

1-800-423-3405 • www.bauerfeindusa.com

BAUERFEIND
Motion is life.

December 2006/Features

22

30 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

A look back at the evolution of *Volleyball* magazine and the impact it has had on the sport.

30

THE 30 MOST RECOGNIZABLE NAMES IN VOLLEYBALL

Find out where some of the sport's biggest stars rate on the familiarity meter.

34

OFF THE COURT: PAINTING THE TOWN RED

U.S. indoor great Steve Timmons reflects back on his Hall of Fame career.

36

2006 VOLLEYBALL HALL OF FAME INDUCTION CEREMONY

U.S. beach great Bernie Holtzman and Brazil legend Jackie Silva headline a list of six new members.

38

OPENING DOORS

The Starlings program continues to play a vital role in the country's youth volleyball landscape.

40

2006 VOLLEYBALL AVP AWARDS

The top pro beach players are honored.

42

1 MORE YEAR

Beach legend Karch Kiraly discusses his future plans.

44

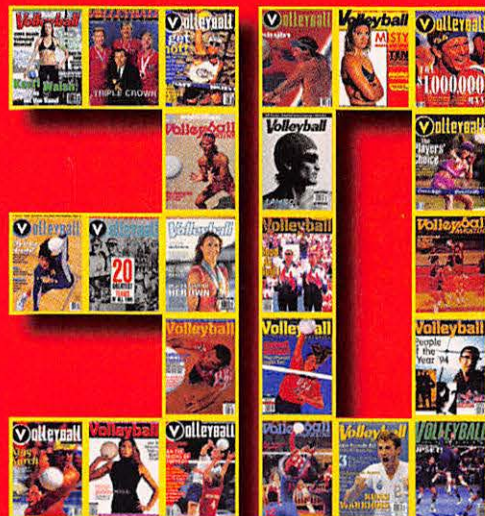
FORGING HER OWN PATH

Nana Meriwether has helped vault UCLA to the top of the women's college game this season.

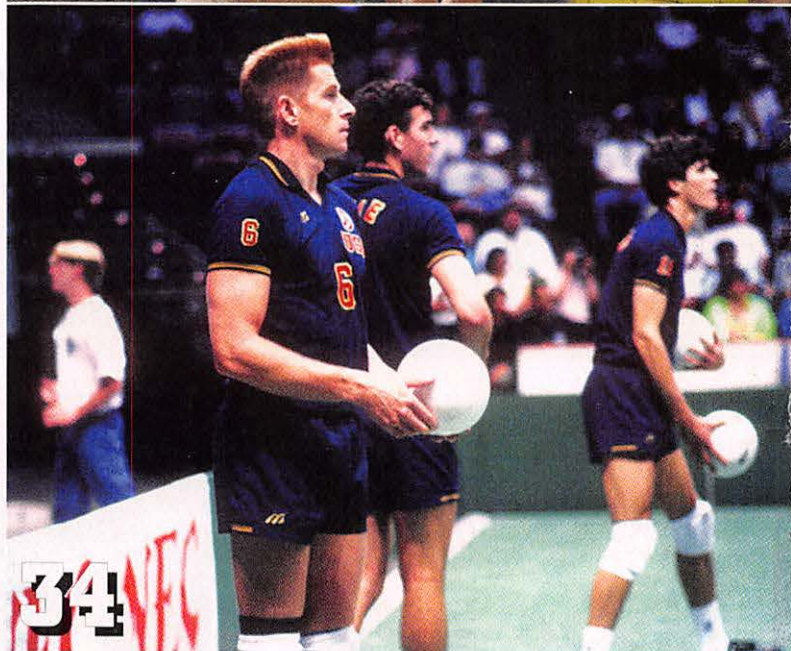
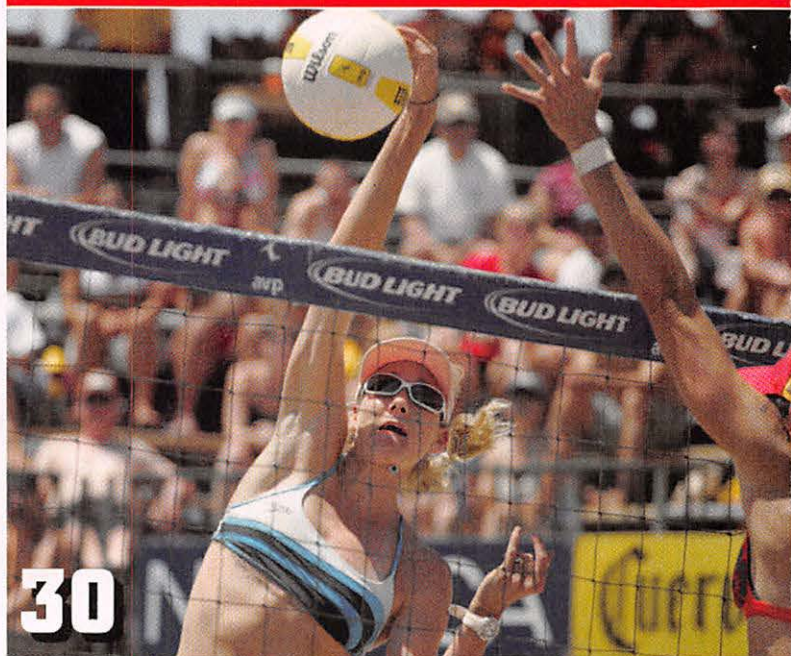
46

OPENING OLD WOUNDS

BYU men's coach Tom Peterson's resignation coincides with word the NCAA is again investigating the program.



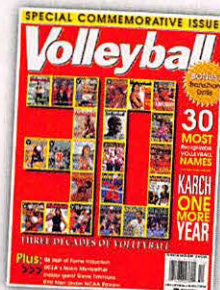
22



Volleyball

MAGAZINE

VOLUME 17 • ISSUE 12



About The Cover

The December 2006 cover of *Volleyball* features a collage of historical covers from past issues of the original *Volleyball Magazine*, *Volleyball Monthly* and the current *Volleyball*. The collage was designed by associate art director **Michael Blea**. A special thanks to AVCA editor of publications and e-services **Rick Capone**,

former *Volleyball* publisher **Jon Hastings** and former *Volleyball* editors **Rick Hazeltine** and **Don Patterson**, along with Sports Performance club director **Rick Butler**, the VolleyShop's **Sue Nucci-Ward** and San Marcos High School boys and girls coach and former *Volleyball Magazine* senior editor **Jon Lee** for their assistance with this project.

Training Table

54 Transition Drills

58 Quick Tip: Brent Hilliard

Club Scene

50 Roll Call/College Commitments

52 Mother McAuley Nike Challenge

Departments

06 From the Editor

08 Your Serve

10 Digging Around

16 Gear: Editor's Choice Indoor Ball Review

18 Q & A: Paula Weishoff

20 Featured Event: 2006 Jayo Invitational

48 Raves: Purdue's Danita Merlau

60 The Fifth Game: Indoor Notebook

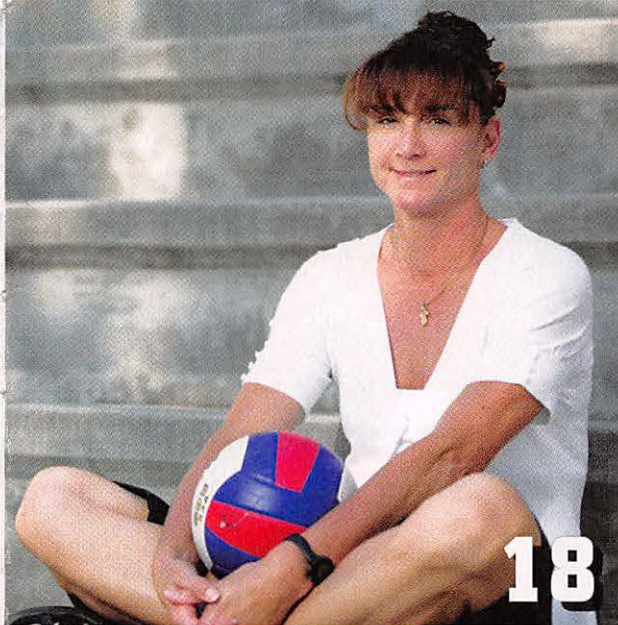
62 For The Record

63 Ad Index

64 Match Point: Hugh McCutcheon

Free Volleyball Newsletter

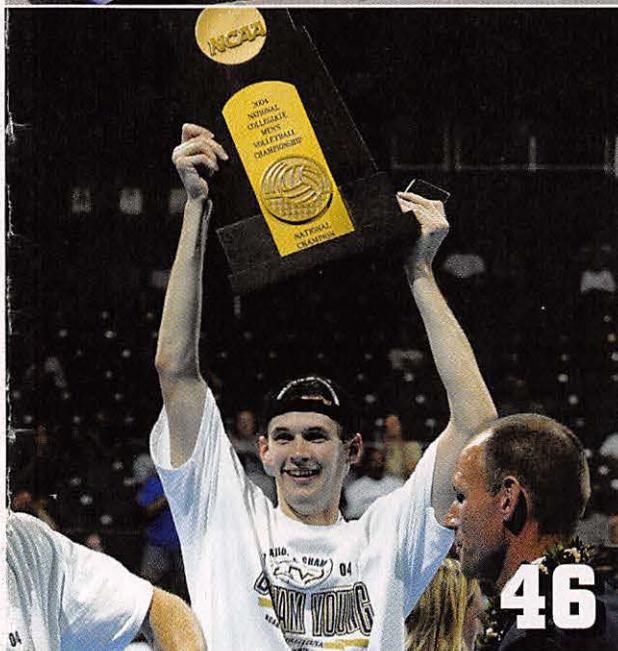
To sign up for the free *Volleyball* monthly e-mail newsletter, send an e-mail to newsletter@volleyballmag.com with complete contact info (name, company name if applicable, address, phone and e-mail address). You can also send that information by fax to **617-536-0102** or to our street address: Volleyball Newsletter Signup, 420 Boylston St, Boston, MA 02116.



18



38



46

STEVE TIMMONS/USA VOLLEYBALL; MOST RECOGNIZABLE NAMES/NICK DOAN; PAULA WEISHOFF/JULIAN BAUM (WWW.BIGGIRLINTHEMIDDLE.COM); OPENING DOORS/PHOTO PROVIDED; BVU/JAY METZGER

Peppering With The King

Bowen Boullianne got a little pepper in with all-time professional beach volleyball wins leader **Karch Kiraly** at the second annual Karch Kiraly Invitational that was held in conjunction with this year's Bank of the West Outdoor Games in Huntington Beach, Calif. Bowen is the son of former beach standout **Bill Boullianne**, who ranks 27th on the men's career earnings chart. Bill Boullianne was part of the Newport Beach team that won the Karch Invitational title this year.

His teammates were fellow sport greats **Brent Frohoff**, **Bryan Ivie** and **Linda Hanley**.

Photo by James Rulison





SPAMMING

Corona Extra

Corona Extra

Corona Extra

Corona Extra

Corona Extra

BANK OF THE WEST

BANK OF THE WEST



Time Flies

I can remember the first time I met Misty May-Treanor.

When I was with the women's pro league (USPV) our "Dream Team" went around the country in 2001 playing a variety of opponents, including college teams during their spring seasons.

Our travels took us to Long Beach State where we played the 49'ers in a spring exhibition match.

Before the match, a group of us were talking down by courtside when May-Treanor happened to walk by. We were all introduced to her. She was friendly and down-to-earth, despite being thrust into one of those awkward, random group introduction moments.

The point to the story is one of the sport's superstars (she already had one Olympic appearance and a phenomenal college career under her belt), made time to talk to a bunch of strangers when she could have easily kept right on walking.

I know I talk about it quite often, but the accessibility of the stars of this sport to the fans and media is second to none.

This issue celebrates *Volleyball's* 30-year lineage. Inside you'll see some of those accessible stars I was talking about (both past and present) that have shaped the sport over the last three decades. I'm not sure, but I think May-Treanor might be included in there somewhere.

And I'm sure in our look back at some of the more interesting covers, the selection and explanation on Page 27 will get our new readers talking and our longtime subscribers saying, "Wow. I remember that."

On Page 22 you will find a history of this magazine and its predecessors. And again, the response and assistance I received from the volleyball community on this

project again made me quickly realize why this is such a great sport.

In looking back, the one common denominator over the last three decades has been the commitment of these magazines to being the authoritative source on the sport—a moniker *Volleyball* unquestionably holds today.

And that commitment will continue to grow stronger as we move into 2007 and beyond. My goal when I came here in 2003 was to make sure *Volleyball* covered all facets of the game whether it was an AVP event or a junior high indoor tournament. Every part of the sport deserves to have a voice.

While I believe that goal has been achieved, I also think

it's a goal that can continue to be enhanced every issue.

That's where you come in.

If I had an open door policy before, the door has now been removed from the hinges.

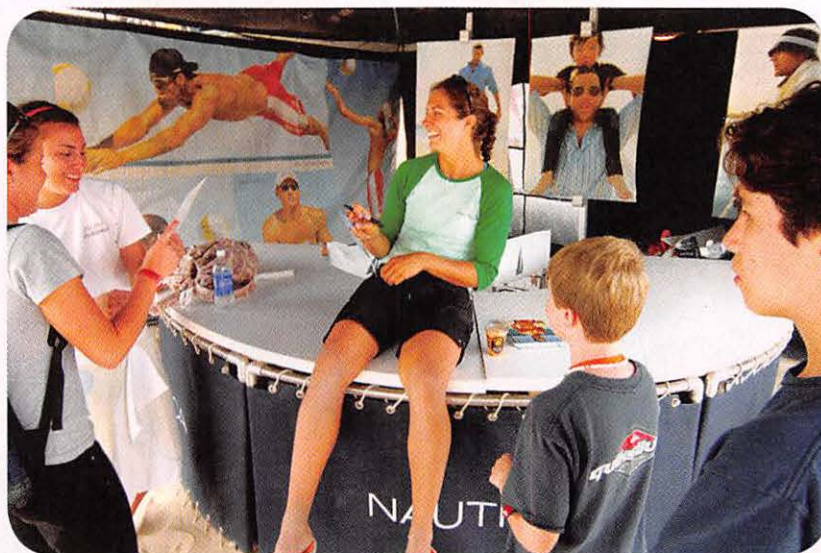
I want to hear your opinions on the people, events and topics that make this sport go.

If you have

something that is volleyball newsworthy, I want to know about it.

I want to know about that local sand tournament that has been going on for the last 25 years. I want to know where your son or daughter is going to play in college. I want to know about the Division III setter with 15 aces in one match.

And together, we'll create many more decades of volleyball memories. ■



Misty May-Treanor is one of many great stories the sport has produced over the last three decades.

JAMES RULISON

Wilson®

Performance INSIDE & OUT

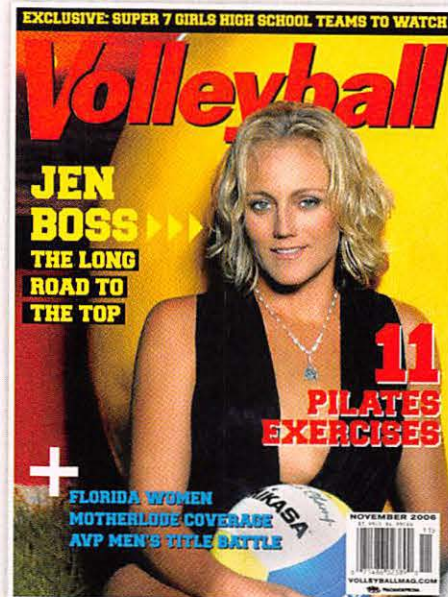


INTRODUCING WILSON® **i-COR**

THE NEW STANDARD FOR PERFORMANCE INDOOR GAME BALLS

Featuring NEW Intelligent Core Construction™ (i-COR) that reacts to the task at hand—delivering optimal control for passing and digging, and total speed for closing the deal. The New Wilson i-COR is chosen by top collegiate programs like UCLA and Notre Dame for its unrivaled performance, touch, and durability.

LETTER OF THE MONTH



The December 2006 Letter of the Month winner will receive a brand new Mikasa Misty May Signature Volleyball. For more information on Mikasa, visit www.MikasaSports.com.



AVP Experience

I was at the Chicago AVP stop this year. It has been a few years since I have been able to attend an event.

Although, I was unimpressed with the increased costs. It is more expensive for each day and they added evenings (at an additional cost).

However, since Misty May-Treanor and Kerri Walsh got together, the level of play for the women has increased substantially.

Since the introduction of the new rules, my interest has started to wane because the number of longer rallies diminished. With the men, that is still the case. Even though they hit harder, I now prefer to watch the women.

Unlike other sports, the accessibility and attitudes of the athletes still amazes me. I noticed that after winning the championship match, Kerri went around and shook the hands of the volunteers on the court. I used to work on the local crews in Milwaukee and Chicago and small gestures like this mean a lot to people who spend a lot of time in the sun/rain for the love of the game.



Kerri Walsh

and I were able to talk to her and her father for a little bit. She seems like a wonderful person.

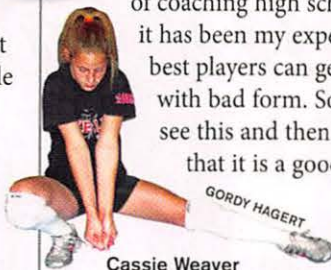
These are things you do not see in other sports. I just wanted to say thank you to all of the AVP players for everything they give to the sport and their fans.

Frank Weiss
Menomonee Falls, Wis.

Tanden Passing

Four years ago, I was at a Cap I camp. The instructors talked about the tanden pass. They showed it with the forearms parallel to the floor and then popping the arms at the ball. Thanks to Walt Weaver's article, I now know that I was given some wrong information. I'm sorry to say that even at that level, coaches are getting the wrong information. In the last 10 years of coaching high school volleyball, it has been my experience that the best players can get good results with bad form. Some coach will see this and then they will think that it is a good way to do it.

John Chin
San Jose, Calif.



Cassie Weaver

Stacy Sykora



Stacy Sykora (left) and Logan Tom

One of your Who Am I? contest answers was Stacy Sykora (September issue). She is one of my favorite players. I watched her play four years at Texas A & M when she traveled to Lincoln to play my Huskers. She is very fun to watch. I heard she may start playing on the AVP tour, but I haven't seen her. Is that true?

Janet Henderson
Omaha, Neb.

Editor: Stacy did toil with the beach game this summer, but did not play in any AVP events.

Publisher
SUSAN FITZGERALD

Editorial Director
JOAN LYNCH

Editor in Chief
MIKE MIAZGA
mmiazga@madavor.com

Associate Art Director
MICHAEL BLEA

Assistant Editor
KEVIN TITTERTON

Contributing Editors
MISTY MAY-TREANOR, HUGH MCCUTCHEON,
RYAN MILLAR, OGGONNA NNAMANI,
JEFF NYGAARD, CHRIS MCGEE, SINJIN SMITH,
AARON WACHTFELG, KERRI WALSH,
ELAINE YOUNGS

Contributing Writers
GEORGE ALFANO, LARA BOYKO, ANDY
FRIEDLANDER, BRENT HILLIARD, NEIL MASON,
HUGH MCCUTCHEON, JOHN RADTKE,
JOSH STEPHENS, MIKE WALL

Contributing Photographers
GREG ANDERSON, JULIAN BAUM (WWW.BIG-GIRLINTHEMIDDLE.COM), PING CHOU, NICK DOAN,
MICHAEL DOUGLAS, F.E. GOROSZKO, JAY METZGER,
MIKE NOWAK, JAMES RULISON, PAUL WHITEHOUSE
(WWW.ARCTICFERRET.US), JAYME YOUNGER

Sales Manager
ERIN PRYOR
epryor@madavor.com

Photography Consultant
JASON OLIVE



Chairman & Chief Executive Officer
JEFFREY C. WOLK

Controller
KAREN HEGARTY

Marketing Coordinator
KATIE SEDAT

Newsstand Consultant
HOWARD WHITE

Subscriptions 1-800-437-5828
Foreign Subscriptions 617-536-0121

Corporate headquarters
Madavor Media, LLC
420 Boylston St., 5th floor
Boston, MA 02116
Tel: 617-536-0100
Fax: 617-536-0102

Volleyball (USPS-006-948, ISSN-1058-4668) is published monthly by Madavor Media, LLC, 420 Boylston Street, 5th Floor, Boston, MA 02116, USA. Tel: 617-536-0100. Jeffrey C. Wolk, Chairman & Chief Executive Officer; Susan Fitzgerald, Publisher. SUBSCRIPTIONS: 1 year (12 issues), US \$24.97, Canada \$35, International \$49. Periodicals postage paid at Boston, MA and other additional offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Volleyball, PO Box 995, Boston, MA 02117. Subscribers allow 4-6 weeks for change of address to become effective. Subscriptions ordered are noncancelable and nonrefundable unless otherwise prompted. Return postage must accompany all manuscripts, drawings and photographs submitted if they are to be returned, and no responsibility can be assumed for unsolicited materials. All rights in letters sent to Volleyball will be treated as unconditionally assigned for publication and copyright purposes and as subject to unrestricted right to edit and to comment editorially. Requests for permission to reprint should be sent to the Permissions and Reprints Department. The title Volleyball is registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Contents copyright © 2006 by Madavor Media, LLC. All rights reserved. Nothing may be reproduced in whole or in part without permission from the publisher. Printed in the U.S.A.



◀ Brian Lewis

Where Are They Now?

I was wondering if you have a "where are they now" section with former Olympians and big names in volleyball?

Star Naboa
Via e-mail

Editor: Each issue, our Off the Court feature catches up with the sport's greats. This month, indoor legend Steve Timmons is featured (Page 34) as part of our look back at the magazine's history over the last three decades. In an earlier issue, beach standout Brian Lewis (pictured above) was featured.

Reader Feedback

I am writing in response to Cole Cramer's letter in your September 2006 issue. Referring to anyone as "absolute garbage" is offensive enough, but to refer to players (students) in this manner is unthinkable. I hope for everyone's sake that Mr. Cramer is not a coach, parent or teacher. I can't help but wonder if he might be one of the players he believes was snubbed, in which case I say "grow up Mr. Cramer." In any case, your statement remains an embarrassment for whatever region you are from.

Mike McDonnell
Via e-mail

Record Check

My high school player just served a perfect 25-0 game. We are wondering how often this happens since rally score came into effect across the country?

Kris Ruppert
Via e-mail

Editor: I will check with the National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) and have an answer for you in the January 2007 issue.

Native American Indigenous Games

I was wondering if there was an article written about Team Arizona that competed in the Native American Indigenous Games. The team was coached by Nana Allison-Brewer.

Emily Allison
Via e-mail

Editor: The article appears on Pages 14-15 of this issue.

Letters to the editor should include the writer's name, address and daytime telephone number. Send all correspondence to: Letters to the Editor, Volleyball, 420 Boylston St., 5th Floor, Boston, MA 02116. Letters may also be faxed to 617-536-0102 or sent via e-mail to mmiazga@madavor.com. Letters may be edited for space and clarity.

VolleyballUSA.com[®]

Guaranteed Lowest Prices!

Nets

Miller Lite



Corona Extra



Jose Cuervo



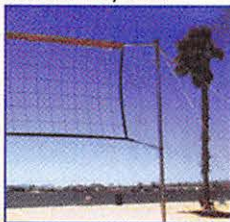
Pro Nets Without Logos



(Available in most colors)

Complete Systems

Recreation Systems



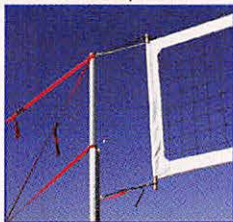
Competitive Systems



Semi-Serious Systems



Professional Systems



Boundary Lines

Rope Lines



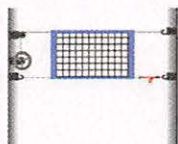
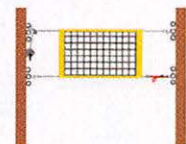
1" Lines



2" Pro Lines



Free New Court Construction Advice



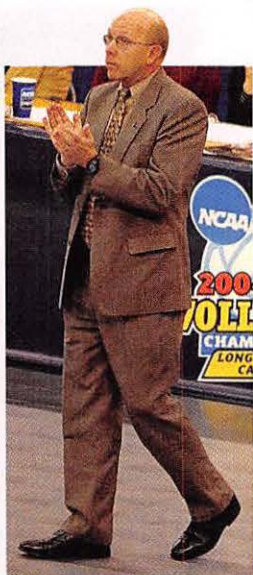
— Call us at 1-800-494-3933 —
Guaranteed Lowest Prices!

218 Main St. Unit 802 Kirkland, WA 98033
www.volleyballusa.com

DIGGING AROUND

AVCA Hall of Fame

◀ Mike Hebert Mick Haley ▶



The American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) has announced its fourth annual Hall of Fame class. Inductions will occur in conjunction with the 2006 AVCA Annual Convention, Dec. 11-16, at the Qwest Center in Omaha, Neb. The ceremony will take place Wed., Dec. 13 from 7-8 p.m.

The 2006 inductees include: **Deborah Chin** (former New Haven women's coach), **Carol Dewey** (former Purdue women's coach), **Mick Haley** (USC women's coach), **Mike Hebert** (Minnesota women's coach), **Sue Gozansky** (UC-Riverside women's coach), **Sue Woodstra** (1984 Team USA captain; Humboldt State women's coach) and **John Zoltek** (YMCA great).

The seven-member 2006 class is the largest since the inaugural Hall of Fame class in 2003 (23 inductees).



Facility Spotlight

SADDLEBACK VALLEY VOLLEYBALL CLUB GYM

Location: 25821 Atlantic Ocean Drive, Lake Forest, CA 92630

Year opened: George and Becky Carey opened the SVVC Gym in 1997

Building size: 32,000 square feet

What's going on: The SVVC houses the Saddleback Valley Volleyball Club, which fields from 30 to over 40 girls and boys teams each year on its seven regulation playing courts. The gym also hosts a variety of camps, clinics and club tournaments.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR FACILITY: Send information on your indoor or outdoor volleyball-only facility along with a digital color photo of the facility to Volleyball Editor in Chief Mike Miazga at mmiazga@madavor.com.

Player of the Month

Name: Anna Gott

Height: 5'7"

Position: Setter/Opposite

Year in School: Sophomore

High School: Desert Vista (Phoenix, Ariz.)

Club Team: AZ Foothills VBC 16-Black

About Anna: Anna set a school record in September for total digs in a match with 27. She and her beach teammate, Betsi Metter, were also the winning 16s team at a CBVA junior beach tournament in March. The duo also won several Arizona junior beach tournaments in the 16's division, including a victory at the Wigwam Volleyball Classic where Anna was named MVP. Anna attended USAV High Performance camps at USF (San Francisco, Calif.) and El Segundo, Calif., this summer.



Scholar Athlete of the Month

Name: Jacob Waszak

School: Eden High School

Year in School: Senior

Height: 6'0"

Position: Setter-Libero

Hometown: Eden, N.Y.

About Jacob: Jacob, who also plays for the Eden Volleyball Club, has a 3.94 GPA and is ranked second out of 190 pupils in his class. Jacob has won the Bausch and Lomb Honorary Science Award and the Rochester Institute of Technology Computing Medal. On the court, Jacob was named an All-ECIC first-team All-Star both his freshman and sophomore seasons and was also named an All-Western New York first-team All-Star as a junior. Jacob won MVP honors at the 2005 Clarence Tournament (junior), the 2006 Eden Pan-Am Tournament (senior) and the Boys' East Coast Championship (15s division).



Thumbs UP



- UCLA women's team
- AVCA Hall of Fame inductees
- 30 years of magazine coverage for the sport
- ◀ UCLA's Nana Meriwether



- BYU men under investigation by NCAA again.
- No international beach TV coverage in the U.S.

- Tape delayed college volleyball broadcasts. Show them live!

Thumbs DOWN

VOLLEYHUT.COM



VOLLEYHUT \$100 TRIVIA TROVE!

Question: Since rally scoring started, who holds the NCAA Division I women's record for kills per game average in a single season at 7.20?

- A. Stacey Gordon (Ohio State)
- B. Mia Jerkov (Cal)
- C. Laura Jones (Texas A & M)
- D. Kim Willoughby (Hawaii)

E-mail your answer along with your name and mailing address to volleyhuttrivia@volleyballmag.com.

All correct responses will be placed into a drawing for a **\$100 VOLLEYHUT GIFT CERTIFICATE**. Winners will be notified via e-mail and will be published in an upcoming issue of *Volleyball*. VolleyHut.com will e-mail the gift certificate code to the winner.

October Winner: Annie Shuey of Palo Alto, Calif., knew that former Stanford great Ogonna Nhamani was an NCAA all-tournament selection three times.

About VolleyHut: VolleyHut offers a wide variety of name-brand volleyball products like footwear, apparel, balls, sunglasses, equipment, jewelry and specialty items. For more information, visit www.volleyhut.com.



The Real Reason the Castaways Never Got Rescued.

DIGGING AROUND

World Military Games Held

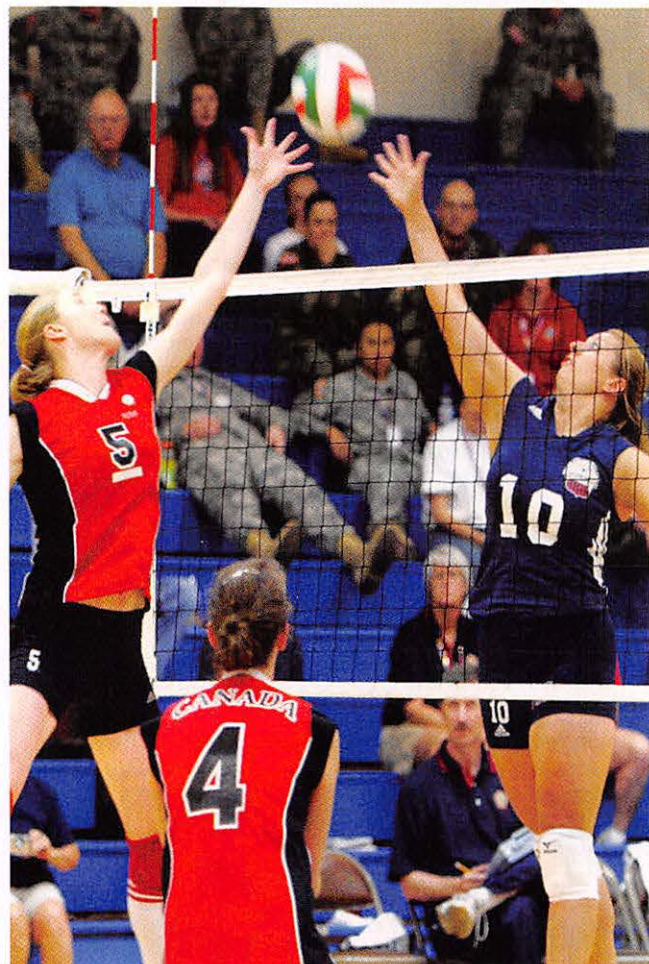


PHOTO PROVIDED

The U.S. women took the silver medal at the CISM World Military Men's and Women's Volleyball Championship.

The seventh CISM World Military Men's and Women's Volleyball Championship was held this summer in Fort Huachuca, Ariz.

In the women's division, the United States captured the silver medal in the round-robin format. Team USA finished with a 3-3 mark. China won the gold medal with a 6-0 record. The Netherlands won the bronze medal with a 3-3 mark. Canada also competed in the tournament, but went 0-6.

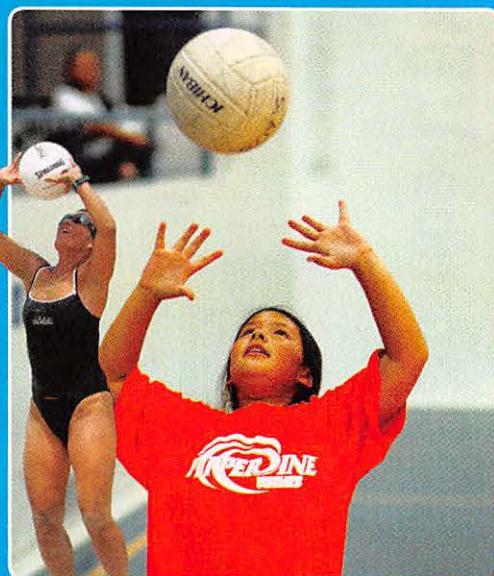
The men's tournament saw Korea take the gold medal. Germany won the silver medal and Qatar won the bronze medal.

The United States went 0-4 in Pool C competition and did not advance to the medal matches.

The men's gold-medal match saw Korea down Germany 3-2. A total of nine teams competed in the men's tournament.

Earlier, the 2006 Armed Forces Volleyball Championship was held at Fort Huachuca. The Army won the men's tournament with a 5-1 record, while the Air Force women went a perfect 6-0 to secure the women's championship. In the women's division, Navy took second and the Army took third. In the men's tournament, Air Force took second and the Marine Corps took third.

Caught On Film



LIANE SATO PHOTO BY JAMES RUSSELL

RUNS IN THE FAMILY

Blossom Sato, the daughter of volleyball great Liane Sato, is shown here setting. Her mom was featured in the October issue setting at the 2006 Karch Kiraly Invitational. Photo submitted by Glenn Sato.

If you have an offbeat, interesting volleyball-related photo that you would like to nominate for Caught on Film, e-mail it to Mike Miazga at mmiazga@madavor.com. Photos must be in color, be of print quality and include pertinent information on the subjects of the photo.

Catch everything about Volleyball in the NET!

VolleyballNET.net

America's only comprehensive web resource for all things VOLLEYBALL.

Log on to VolleyballNET.net to find out about:

- Tournaments
- Tours
- Clubs
- Camps
- Leagues
- College Ball
- Merchandise



TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS! Make sure your tournaments are included. Contact us at **888-762-8747** for tournament information in your state!

You know what's going on in your net. Find out what's going on in our net. VolleyballNet.Net or call toll-free 888-762-8747 today.



Volleyball Market

Each month, Volleyball Market will give away one \$50 gift certificate to the winner of the Who Am I? contest.

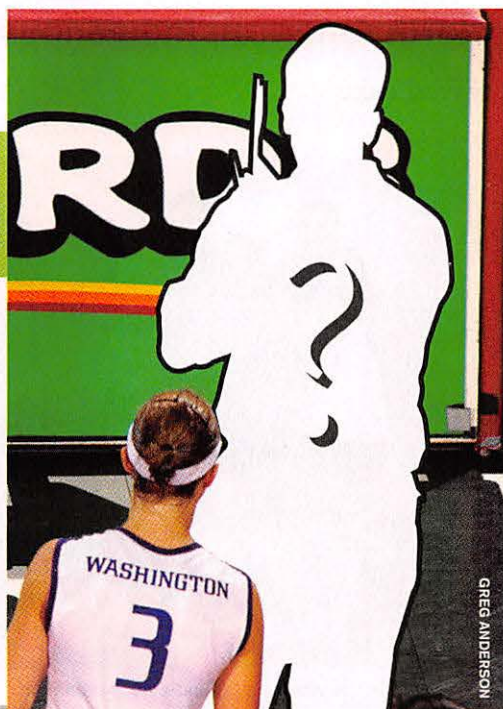
Who Am I? I am the only coach in the history of NCAA Division I volleyball to direct both a men's and a women's team to an NCAA national championship.

How to enter: E-mail your answer along with your name and mailing address to Volleyball Editor in Chief Mike Miazga at vbmarketwhoami@volleyballmag.com. One winner from all correct entries will be chosen at random.

October winner: Paul Niiyama of Mililani, Hawaii knew the answer to the Who Am I? question was U.S. Men's National Team star Clay Stanley.

Volleyball Market is one of the fastest growing volleyball specialty companies in North America, featuring a wide variety of volleyball merchandise. For more information, visit www.volleyballmarket.com.

Who Am I?



FIVB Beach Update



Jake Gibb (left) and Sean Rosenthal finished second in Brazil. They came into the tournament seeded ninth.

Defending world champions Misty May-Treanor and Kerri Walsh finished third at the recent FIVB Brazil Open. May-Treanor and Walsh lost to the Brazil duo of Ana Paula and Leila in three games in the semifinals. May-Treanor and Walsh rebounded to defeat fellow Americans Nicole Branagh and Elaine Youngs in the bronze-medal match. May-Treanor and Walsh have not won an FIVB tournament in their last three tries (France, Austria and Brazil). On the men's side, Americans Jake Gibb and Sean Rosenthal lost to Germany's Christoph Dieckmann and Julius Brink in the championship match in Brazil. Gibb and Rosenthal came into the match seeded ninth.

Team of the Month



CITIZENS KANE

The Kane County (Ill.) Juniors Volleyball Club had a successful run at the ASICS Junior National Championships this summer in Chicago. The Kane County Juniors 18 Gold team and the Kane County Juniors 14 Gold team both won gold medals.

Send Team of the Month nominations to Mike Miazga at mmiazga@madavor.com.

Reaching New Heights

The North American Indigenous Games continue to draw huge numbers.

By Andy Friedlander



Team Kansas competed in the women's 20-and-over tournament.

Nanabah Allison-Brewer remembers it vividly.

The regalia. The cultures. The languages.

And, yes, the volleyball.

It was 1997, and Allison-Brewer, then a player at the University of New Mexico, was in Victoria, British Columbia, attending the North American Indigenous Games for the first time. As a Native American, she was overwhelmed by the sheer enormity of the multi-sport event and of the Indian nations represented. And she was inspired to make sure others got their chance to be part of it, too.

Which is why, nine years later, Allison-Brewer dropped everything at the most hectic time of her life to put together a team and return to the event that had such an impact on her.

The team she put together for the 2006 NAIG, Team Arizona, won the gold medal in the women's 20-and-over division of the volleyball competition with Allison-Brewer, 29, serving as player-coach. But more importantly, the team had been part of the cultural and athletic festival that was the NAIG, a gathering of more than 7,000 indigenous athletes from more than 500 tribes representing 23 U.S. states and 11 Canadian provinces in 17 sports.

This year's games—the seventh such event since it was created in 1990—were held for the first time in the United States (Denver was the host).

"I had never really seen so many American Indians at one time, at one big athletic gathering," Allison-Brewer said. "It was incredible, and it was also humbling. It brought back a lot of pride in

who we are and where we come from, and who we're representing.

"It was really eye-opening because I was kind of ignorant about other tribes and other cultures. Growing up in the Southwest, I only knew about my own tribe, the Navajo tribe, and seeing all the cultures and hearing the different languages was amazing. That was one of the big reasons I wanted to create a new team and give the younger girls a chance to be a part of it."

She was so determined to come back that not even the blur that has been her life in 2006 could stop her. In February, Allison-Brewer delivered her second child, a daughter. In April, she was hired as an assistant coach at Dartmouth—she is believed to be the first Native American to serve as coach of an NCAA Division I volleyball team—and a month later, she completed her master's degree at University of Arizona.

And with help from her friends, including current and former Division I players such as Elvina Clark-Joe (Arizona), Jaymie Swift (UTEP) and Melissa Peterson (Virginia Commonwealth), Allison-Brewer repeated the triumph of her first NAIG appearance, when she won the title with Team Colorado.

Only this time, the competition was markedly better, she said, not only at the adult level but in all the youth divisions as well. Arizona teams, incidentally, also won the girls 13-14 and 17-19 competitions.

"When we were there the first time, we were huge role models to a lot of people," Allison-Brewer said. "Volleyball was a new sport among the Indian people. It looked like a family reunion, real recreational ball, like elementary level.



Melissa Peterson, who also helped Team Arizona win an NAIG gold medal, is a senior middle blocker for Virginia Commonwealth.

“

It was incredible, and it was also humbling. It brought back a lot of pride in who we are and where we come from, and who we're representing.

”

— Dartmouth assistant coach Nanabah Allison-Brewer on participating in the NAIG in Denver.



DARTMOUTH

We just killed everybody. It was really easy. And to see where it is today, competing in Denver, at all levels, this year there were some battles. It's really competitive, a faster-paced game. It has really picked up, and I was very impressed. The game is really coming along in Indian country.”

So much that college coaches now see the Indigenous Games as fertile ground for recruiting.

That's especially true for Judith Gipp, a member of the Hunkapa Lakota nation and the coach at Haskell Indian Nations University, an NAIA school in Lawrence, Kan.

Because all of her players are required to be Native Americans and part of federally-recognized tribes, recruiting can be “quite the challenge,” she said.

“Recruiting is difficult already, and that's another hurdle we have to cross,” said Gipp, who went to the NAIG as an aide to Team Kansas coach Carla Riding in Feathers, Gipp's assistant at Haskell. “Being able to go out and find talented American Indian athletes competing at a high level in volleyball is quite challenging.

“This event gives me a format, if you will, a place where I can go in and see about girls possibly coming to our university. It's a huge deal for me. From a recruiting standpoint, it's enormous.”

And in terms of the future, the NAIG is just as enormous, Allison-Brewer said. For Native American athletes, the event serves as a source of pride in their heritage as well as motivation to improve.

Her experience in 1997 prompted her to focus on teaching and coaching young Indian players, and since graduating from New Mexico, she has operated a series of camps and clinics on reservations in the Southwest and other parts of the country.

“It fostered that passion to coach,” she explained. “Hey, look at all these girls here competing, but they don't even know they're competing at a low level because they don't have anything to compare themselves to. Our team—we were all college players—had fans all over the place. We had all these

little kids, guys, older people wanting our autographs.

“It helped us realize that we needed to do something about this, to not take it for granted and really try to help get people to get somewhere, that we were role models. It further supported my passion and my dream.”

Her dream is to have a stream of Native American players earning college scholarships, and eventually, moving on to the international level.

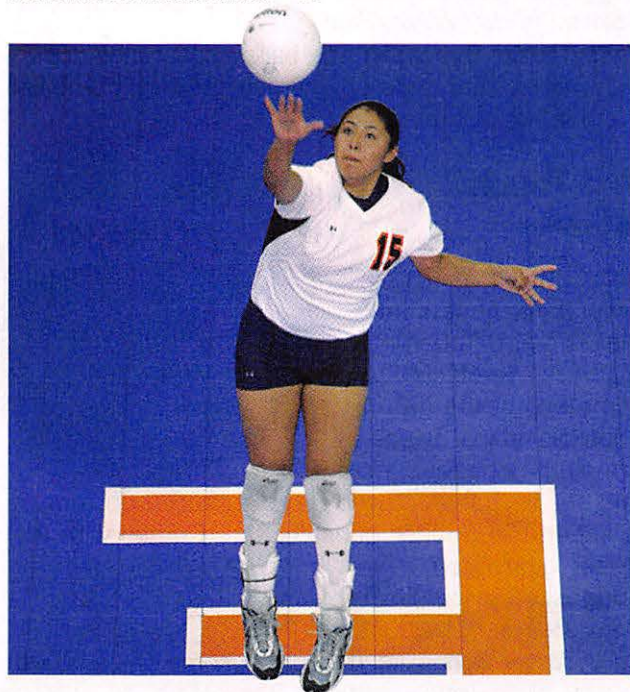
“That's one of my hopes, to foster and create that pipeline into higher education, into college play, and hopefully to our national team,” Allison-

Brewer said. “But it has to start somewhere and it's neat to see it start to develop. This is truly something where there's a demand and a need there.” ■



The players enjoyed themselves at the U.S. Olympic Training Center.

PHOTO COURTESY JUDITH GIPP



UTEP

Jaymie Swift, who led UTEP in aces last year, helped Team Arizona win the women's 20-and-over crown.

Volleyball Editor's Choice INDOOR COMPETITION BALL REVIEW 2006

A look at the latest brands of indoor competition volleyballs and how they fared when *Volleyball's* VolleyTesters crew put them to the test.

Editor's Note: Each brand of indoor volleyball was tested in the gym by Volleyball's VolleyTesters crew, a panel comprised of current and former high school, collegiate and professional volleyball athletes. Each indoor ball was rated in four different categories using a scale of 1-5 (5 being the highest possible rating).



MVP200

MIKASA

www.mikasasports.com

Mikasa's MVP200 is the "official ball" of the 2008 Olympics and FIVB World League. The MVP200 provides the perfect balance of a soft microfiber cover and nylon-wound bladder, making it both soft and durable. Comes with a 3-year warranty.

Suggested price: \$69.99

Colors: Yellow/White/Blue

VolleyTester Synopsis: The ball's appearance drew high marks from testers. "The outer texture of the ball is great," said one tester.

Pro Touch NCAA

MOLTEN

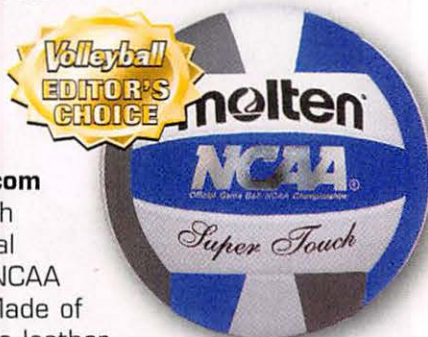
www.moltenusa.com

Molten's Pro Touch NCAA is the official game ball of the NCAA Championships. Made of premium Japanese leather, this ball is manufactured using a unique cotton-wrapped Uni-bladder construction. Comes with a 2-year guarantee.

Suggested price: \$59.99

Colors: Blue/Silver/White

VolleyTester Synopsis: The color scheme was a hit with testers, along with its softness. "This ball has an awesome texture and feels like the perfect weight," said one tester.



SV-5W Gold

TACHIKARA

www.tachikara.com

Tachikara's SV-5W Gold premium leather volleyball features a Dual Bladder Construction method with a second supportive bladder for increased response, control, durability and truer shape for flight. Intended for the highest levels of competition. The

white model is approved for play by the NFHS.

Suggested price: \$74.95

Colors: White; Scarlet/White/Navy; Scarlet/White/Black; College Blue/White/Silver Gray

VolleyTester Synopsis: One tester said the ball was "light and wonderful." Ease in setting also cited.

Perfection VX5EC

BADEN

www.badensports.com

Baden's VX5EC Perfection features the patent pending Stealth Soft-Valve System, which creates a truly consistent feel and reaction for all 18 panels. Constructed with premium hand-sorted leather, the VX5EC is 33 percent thicker than the standard ball and is uniformly soft. The cover allows for strong feel, playability and longer durability. Conforms to NCAA, NFHS, FIVB and USAV standards.

Suggested price: \$49.95

Colors: Available in 14 different color combinations

VolleyTester Synopsis: The ball's look was a hit. "This ball is easy to set," remarked another tester.



TF 5000 SPALDING

www.spalding.com

Spalding's TF 5000 features a 2-ply soft cloth lining and a 2-ply floating butyl bladder. The ball's cover is made from a select Japanese leather. Meets all technical specifications.

Suggested price: \$50 (team pricing available)

Colors: Available in 12 different color combinations

VolleyTester Synopsis: One tester liked the bounce the ball had. "It's an easy ball to hit and the color scheme looks good," another tester said.



i-COR High Performance WILSON

www.wilson.com

Wilson's i-COR High Performance's construction has been redesigned to produce a balance between speed and control.

The ball has a premium Japanese full-grain leather cover, which is adhered with a High

Rebound Latex to provide performance, touch and durability. This ball will be available in the fall of 2007.

Suggested price: \$45

Colors: White; Red/White/Blue; Blue/White/Silver

VolleyTester Synopsis: The ball's texture drew frequent praise. "It's a ball that gives you good control," said one tester.



**Volleyball
BEST
DEBUT**

3005 NIKE

www.nike.com

Nike's 3005 features a cloth carcass for softer feel and easier break-in. The ball also has a non-floating butyl bladder and hand-laid cotton carcass with liquid latex fusion. The Wadda leather cover is made with specialized volleyball-specific leather. The ball's tri-color blocking helps with determining ball rotation.

Suggested price: \$60

Colors: White/White/Black; White/Black/Black; White/Blue/Silver/Black

VolleyTester Synopsis: Texture, softness and weight were superlatives cited by testers. One tester liked the placement of the company's logo.



TALE OF THE TAPE

Here are the top performers in each category based on feedback from the VolleyTesters crew that tested the different brands of indoor competition volleyballs.

Texture: Wilson

Appearance: Molten

Construction: Tachikara

Overall quality: Molten

Roll Call Of Winners

2003: Mikasa MVP 200

2004: Mikasa VQ 2000 Plus

2005: Molten Official NCAA Championship Super Touch Leather Volleyball

2006: Molten Pro Touch NCAA

Product Corner

Collegiate 4000 Telescopic System

The Schelde Collegiate 400 Telescopic Volleyball System can be set up by one person in five minutes or less. The system's design allows the net heights to be changed quickly for various levels of play while keeping the net aligned with the top of the post. All Schelde posts carry a limited lifetime warranty. For more information, visit www.scheldesports.com or call 1-888-SHELDE (724-3533).



On The Go Tempo & Smart Share

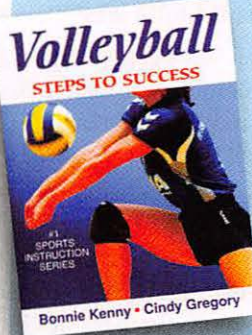
Griffin Technologies has created the Tempo iPod armband for the active athlete. The Tempo has built-in iPod screen protection and a headphone cord wrap, along with a soft inner lining to shelter the iPod.

Griffin's SmartShare is a headphone splitter that features independent volume controls, which allows two people to listen to an iPod at the same time at different volume levels. For more information on both items, visit www.griffintechnologies.com.



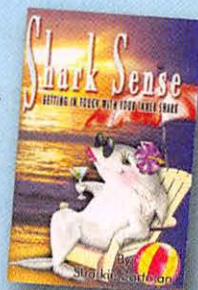
Volleyball Library Volleyball: Steps To Success

From Human Kinetics, this book offers a comprehensive, progressive approach with a proven system for learning, expert instruction, crisp illustrations and 60 drills to improve play on both sides of the net. Topics such as proper footwork and posture, along with serving, passing, setting, attacking blocking and digging are discussed. The book was written by Delaware women's coach Bonnie Kenny and Delaware associate head coach Cindy Gregory. For more information, visit www.humankinetics.com.



Shark Sense

Longtime sport player and enthusiast Sharkie Zartman has written the book Shark Sense: Getting in Touch With Your Inner Shark. Zartman, a former All-American volleyball athlete, provides simple, but powerful examples of survival behaviors (shark actions) that people can use in their own lives every day. This self-help, wellness and self-empowerment book is one of four works Zartman has written. For more information, visit www.sharksense.com.



PAULA WEISHOFF

By Mike Miazga



JULIAN BAUM (WWW.BIGGIRLINTHEMIDDLE.COM)

Hall of Famer Paula Weishoff is in her third year as the head women's coach at Concordia University, an NAIA school in Irvine, Calif. Weishoff made an instant impact at Concordia, leading the team to the NAIA championship match in her first season (2004). Through mid-October, Weishoff was 69-16 in two-plus seasons. Prior to Concordia, Weishoff was the associate head coach at USC (her alma mater) for

seven seasons. A three-time indoor Olympian who helped the United States to a silver-medal finish in the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles, Weishoff is regarded as one of the game's all-time greats. She spent 15 years with the women's national team and was named the MVP of the 2002 Olympics. Weishoff took time recently to talk about both her playing and coaching careers.

Volleyball: What's the biggest difference between coaching at the NCAA Division I level and the NAIA level?

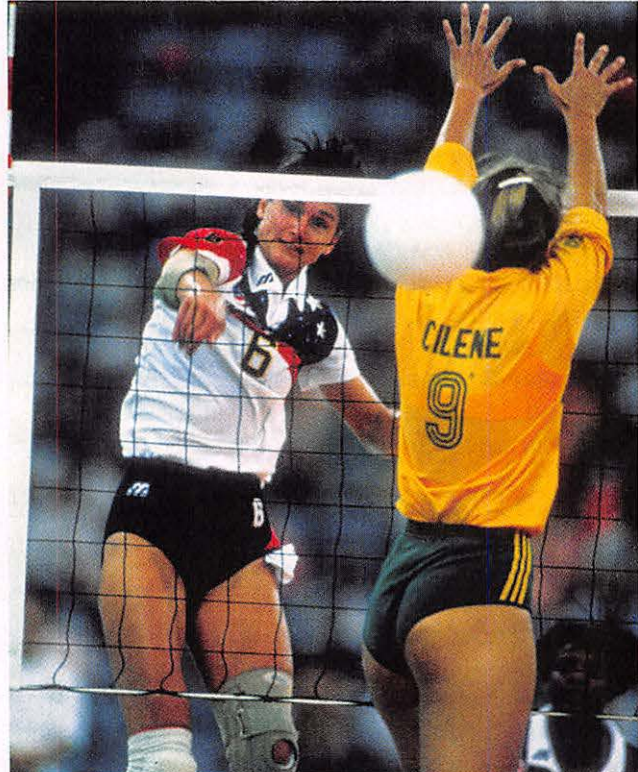
Paula Weishoff: I coach this team the way I coached at 'SC. But the biggest difference is the physicality of the athlete. At 'SC you have girls that are 6'2", 6'3" and 6'6" that touch 10'3". Here, we might have girls touching 9'11" to 10-feet instead of 10'3" and 10'5".

VB: Was it tough leaving USC?

PW: I played there, I got my degree there and I coached there. It was tough to leave. At USC the commute from Irvine-Huntington Beach would sometimes be up to an hour-and-a-half each way. I'm still working the long hours, but I'm a little closer to home.

VB: How is the recruiting different?

PW: At 'SC you are getting the top of the top. Here, we've got great recruits, but it's a little harder. You have to go out there and find them and compare and spend a lot more time evaluating. Our conference is very competitive. We're all competing for the same kids and then you have schools like



USA VOLLEYBALL

Weishoff helped lead the U.S. Women's Olympic Team to the silver medal in 1984.

UC Irvine, Long Beach State, Fullerton and UC Riverside that are out there too. We're out there just as much as the Division I schools, although we might not travel as much. People are committed to having good programs.

VB: A lot of people say you are one of the greatest female athletes to ever play the game. How do you respond to that?

PW: I just say I was blessed with talent and had a joy for the sport that I love to play.

VB: How were you able to play 15 years with the national team?

PW: Good genes (laughs). I had great coaches and had a great work ethic and discipline. I love playing volleyball. It wasn't like a job for me. I got to get up and play the sport I loved.

VB: What is your biggest strength as a coach?

PW: Nobody has ever asked me that before. I think it's the fact I have had so many good coaches with so many good styles. I don't know just one way to do something. I have the knowledge and have been in different systems where I can change things. I had many perspectives.

VB: What's your favorite moment from your playing career?

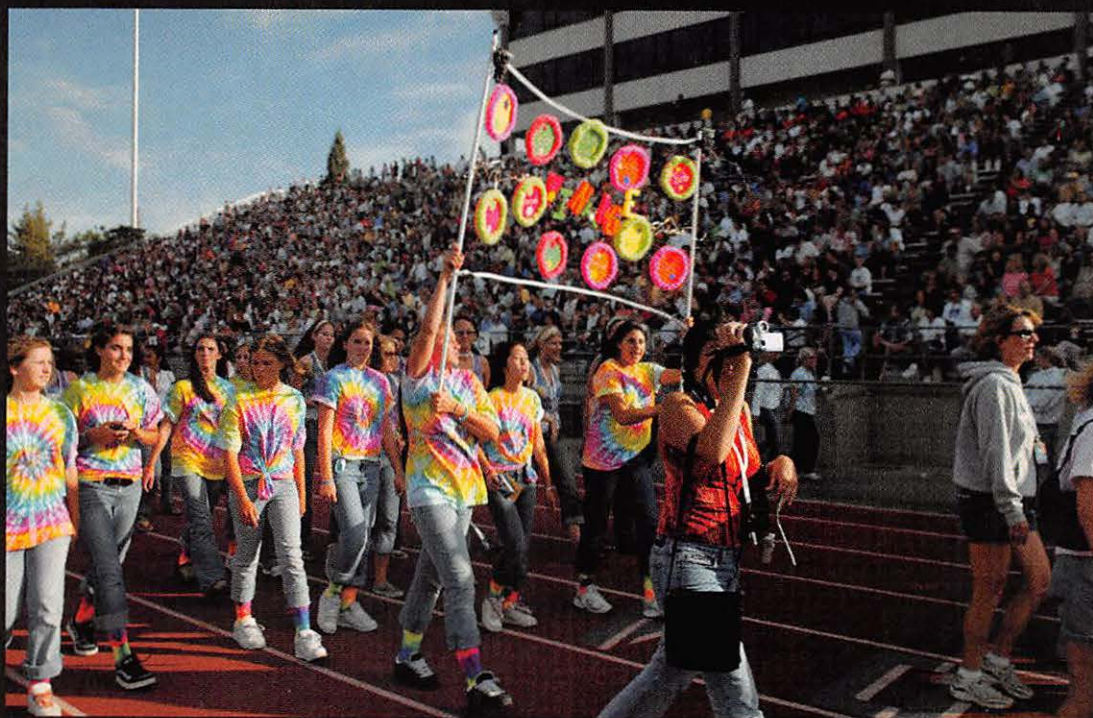
PW: The first Olympics (1984) and walking into the stadium (Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum) for the opening ceremonies. The first one is always special.

VB: Do you have any aspirations of being a Division I head coach?

PW: I am very happy where I am at. But you never know where life will take you. Maybe one day? Maybe not?

**YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND
THE 24TH ANNUAL
VOLLEYBALL FESTIVAL**

RENO, NEVADA JUNE 30 - JULY 6, 2007



Opening Ceremony - Saturday, June 30th

Championship Finals - Thursday, July 5th

Final day of competition - Friday July 6th

Age groups include: 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18

Lots of competition at all levels - U.S. and Internationally

Register your team by February 15, 2007, to avoid late fee

Last date to register teams is May 31, 2007

For information contact:

The Volleyball Festival

19855 Southwest Freeway, #220

Sugar Land, TX 77479

Tel 281-207-1070 - Fax (281) 207-1071

info@volleyball-festival.com

www.volleyball-festival.com

2006 JAYO Invitational

Some of the sport's top stars were again on-hand for this annual charity tournament.



The Jayo Kids Clinic hosted over 150 children.

Manhattan Beach, Calif., served as the gathering place for this year's fourth-annual Jayo Invitational.

Billed as the biggest pro-am celebrity charity tournament in the country, the Jayo again featured many of the AVP's top pros along with a number of Hollywood celebrities.

Hall of Famer Sinjin Smith kicked off the event by hosting over 150 children at the Jayo Kids Clinic.

Olympic gold medalists Dain Blanton and Eric Fonoimoana, along with Olympic bronze medalist Holly McPeak, were on hand, along with fellow beach players Albert Hannemann, Lee LeGrande, Jenny Johnson Jordan, Hans Stoflus, Chad Mowrey, Canyon Ceman, Suzanne Stonebarger and Michelle More.

Once again, the adult tournament was a big hit. The tournament offers corporations the ability to buy teams and select a professional team captain from a list of participating AVP pros. Individuals can also sign up. A celebrity is then added to each team. At any time, a team can rent more pros for a donation.

"Each year, the teams seem to get a little stronger," said Fonoimoana, who has played in all four events. "There are guys like David Brody (whose company Freemont was one of the corporate teams) who have the system down pretty good. They know they have to rent pros early. Not only do they get the pro, but they prevent the other teams from getting them. It's like fantasy volleyball, but for real out there."

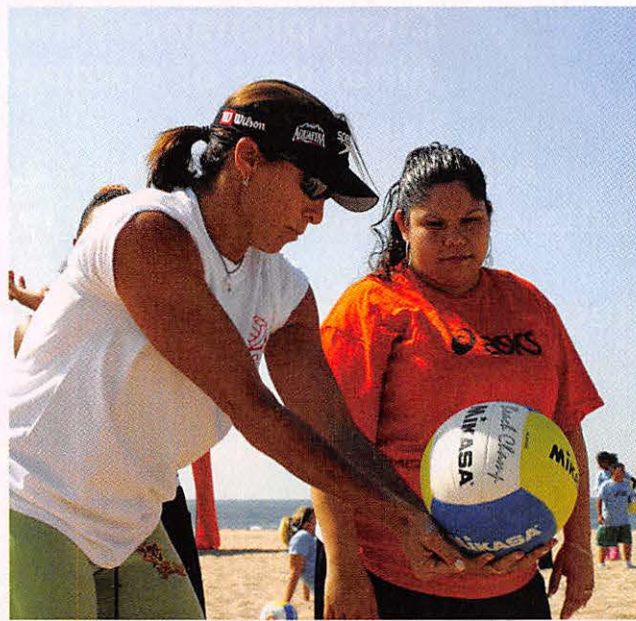
Stoflus was playing in his first Jayo.

"I knew it was going to be a super-fun time," said Stoflus. "I was glad to get asked to come, but what I did not expect was the pressure when a team rents you. I mean, yeah, the money is going to charity and everyone is having fun,

but these teams want to win and they are putting up good money for you."

Stoflus was part of Team Picture Solutions, which won the 2006 Jayo title. Picture Solutions also rented Hannemann for the finals. It was Hannemann's first title in four Jayo appearances.

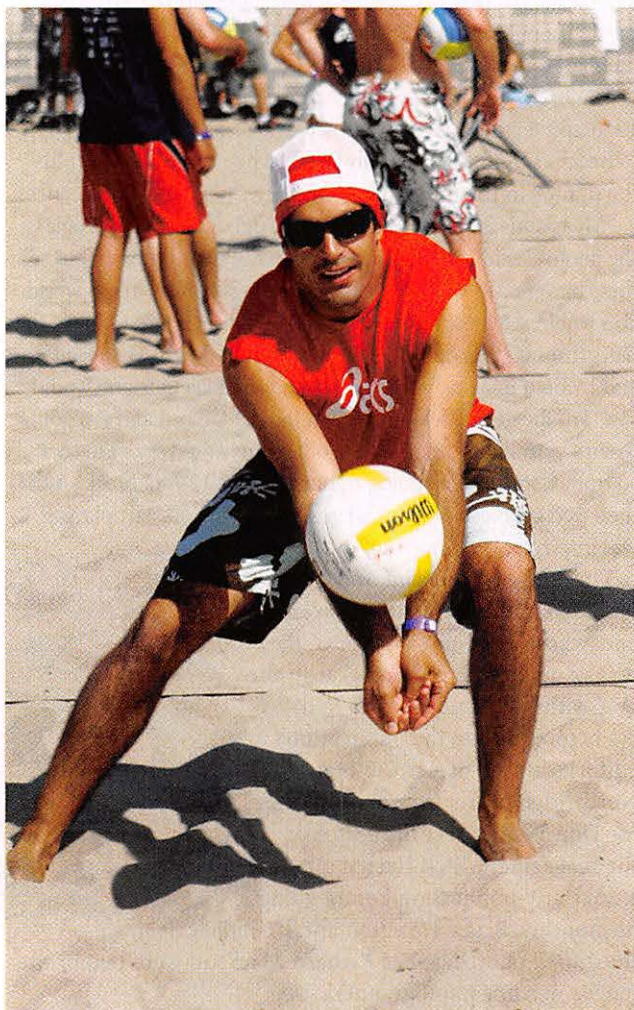
"I've lost three close matches in the last three Jayos," said Hannemann. "I knew I had to come up big. We had some great people on the team. Josh Kandal put a great team together and was the general manager of the year this year. Galen Gering and James Hyde, his celebs, sure could play."



Olympic bronze medalist Holly McPeak was one of a number of AVP players on hand.



"Passions" soap opera stars James Hyde (top row, left) and Galen Gering (bottom row, right) are shown with Cingular Wireless executive Mauro Martinez (top row, second from left) and AVP women's player Michelle More (top row, right) along with a number of Jayo Kids Clinic campers.



Soap star Galen Gering



Picture Solutions won the 2006 Jayo title.

Picture Solutions was down 19-16 at one point in the championship match against defending Jayo titlist Freemont, but came back to secure the victory. Freemont was captained by Ranni Kungisky with Mowrey. Stoflus was the captain of Picture Solutions with Albert Hannemann. Picture Solutions also benefited from the play of celeb player Gering.

"I had a great time as usual and was very thankful for the time and efforts of everyone," said Hannemann. "Our Dig for Kids Foundation is proud to be affiliated with the Jayo. I'm looking forward to next year's event."

New twists in the tournament this year included no limit on the number of pros a team could rent (good bidding wars resulted) and the use of the short court with a 6-on-6 format.

Besides Picture Solutions, other corporate teams included Team ASICS®, Dr. Gould (a team put together by a local Manhattan Beach dentist), Freemont and Spectrum Gyms. ■

On The Web: www.jayoinvitational.com

ALL PHOTOS BY MICHAEL DOUGLAS AND JAMIE YOUNGER

30 Years of Volleyball Excellence

A look at the three-decade lineage of *Volleyball* and the impact the magazine and its predecessors have made on the sport.

By Mike Miazga

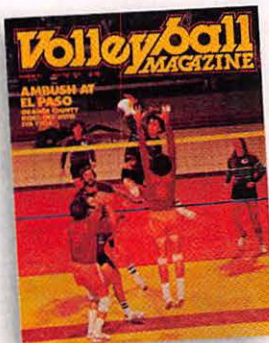
As a youngster in Northern California, 2004 Olympic gold medalist Kerri Walsh was a frequent reader of *Volleyball*. "Growing up with the magazine, I absolutely looked forward to the high school spotlights and how well so and so was doing, who were the teams to beat, the college info, etc.," said Walsh.

But to her, the magazine had added meaning.

"I simply loved seeing people taking notice of the sport, legitimizing it by having its own magazine," said Walsh.

Walsh's sentiments are shared by many in the sport who view *Volleyball* and its predecessors as important components in the development and advancement of the sport over the last three decades.

And while the last 30 years have featured plenty of ups and downs, twists and turns, sales and even a merger, the one constant that has remained has been the commitment to deliver a first-class and informative product to volleyball enthusiasts worldwide.



The Beginning

While there have been memories of earlier attempts at U.S. volleyball magazines (Hall of Famer Gene Selznick said he put out one that lasted two issues in 1963 and there are stories of California beach players Bob and Pete Hogan trying to start one), the true start of the information age in the sport in this country can be traced back to

1976 when the original *Volleyball Magazine* was started by Jim Bartlett, a publishing executive in Santa Barbara, Calif., who had purchased the IVA men's pro league a year earlier.

The original *Volleyball Magazine* debuted in the winter of 1976 and featured UCLA men's player Joe Mica on the cover.

Beach legend Karch Kiraly used to pay close attention to the photos in the magazine, especially the international ones.

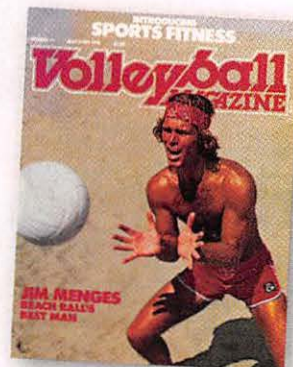
"My friends and I at Santa Barbara High School would ogle the photos," said Kiraly. "There was no ESPN or other way to see these players. We were dying to see the best players in the world. You would see these photos of players with their chests above the net, crushing balls or blocking guys straight down. My friends and I would imagine what these guys were like. One guy would say, 'I'm the great Aleksandr Savin (Soviet Union) and I'm going to stuff your lights out.' And the other guy would say, 'I'm so and so from Cuba and I'm going right over your 12-foot block.' And then we'd get on our bikes and go to the gym and start playing. It was inspiring, very much so."

The staff of *Volleyball Magazine* included highly decorated player Jon Lee, who was a senior editor of the magazine. Lee played one year in the IVA with the Santa Barbara Spikers before joining the publication's editorial staff. Former Cal State Northridge sports information director Don Weiner was the editor of the magazine, which started out as a quarterly publication before going bi-monthly. Bruce Hazelton and legendary *Sports Illustrated* photographer Richard Mackson were two of the magazine's key photographers.

"I could make a little more money writing year-long instead



Olympic gold medalist Kerri Walsh says *Volleyball* helped to legitimize the sport.



Volleyball

MAGAZINE

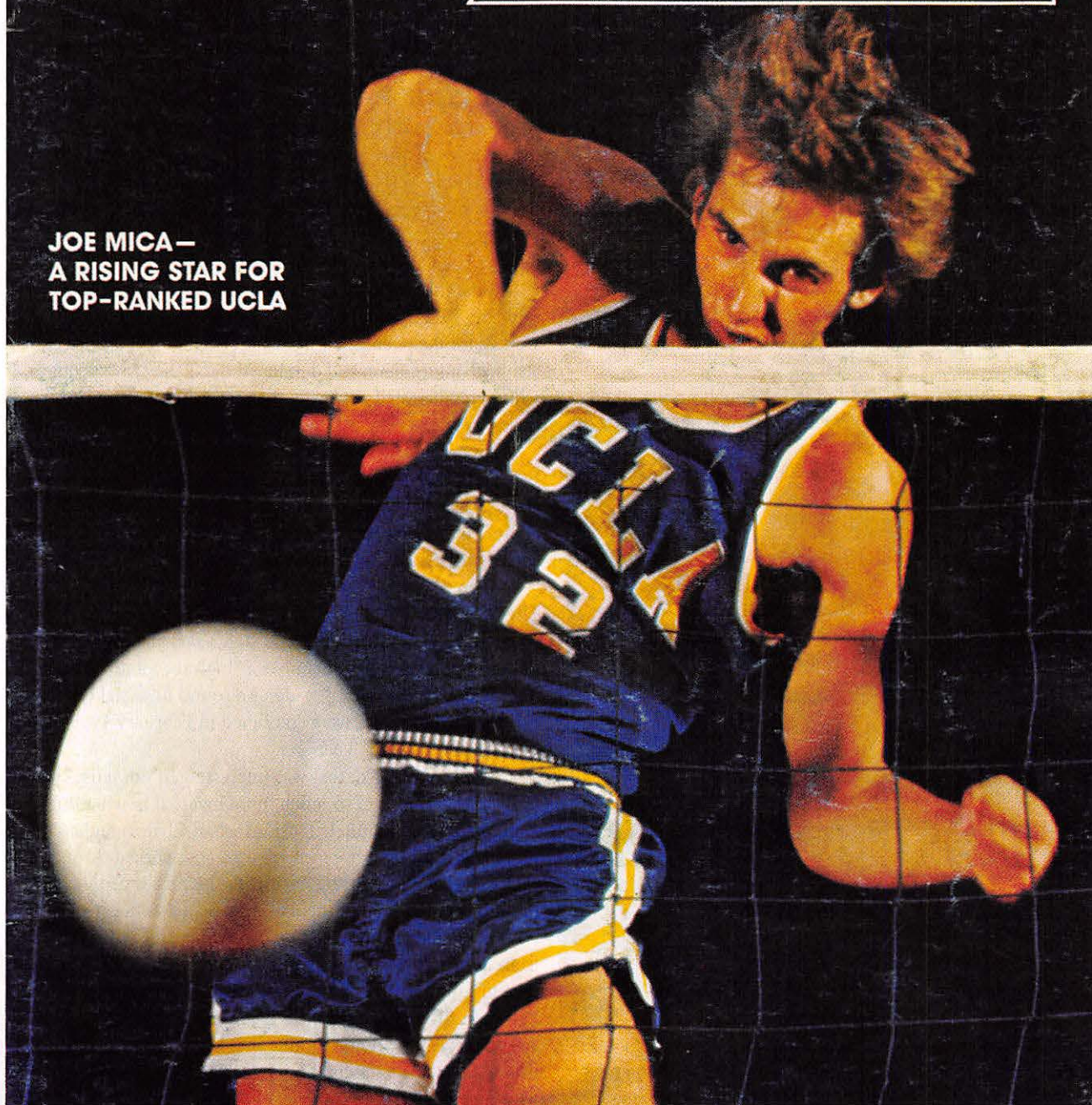
CHARTER ISSUE

WINTER 1976

\$1.00

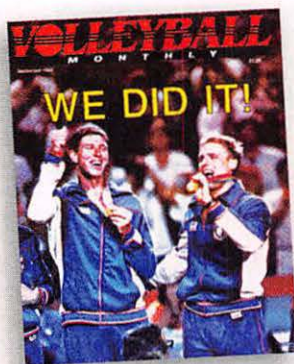
© 1976

JOE MICA—
A RISING STAR FOR
TOP-RANKED UCLA



The Original

The charter issue of *Volleyball Magazine* debuted in 1976 and featured UCLA men's player **Joe Mica** on the cover. The 66-page issue also included coverage of the Pan American Games in Mexico City, a story on Hall of Famer **Ron Von Hagen**, plus articles on the IVA's professional co-ed format and the Louisville High School (Woodland Hills, Calif.) girls volleyball team. Besides a Mikasa Sports advertisement on the back cover, an ad for fast food chain Jack in the Box was also included.



of playing for two, two-and-a-half months," laughed Lee, who has taught English and has been the boys and girls volleyball coach for the last 23 years at San Marcos (Santa Barbara, Calif.) High School.

Lee, also a volleyball color commentator for ESPN for five years, said the magazine lasted five years with its demise coinciding with the IVA going out of business.

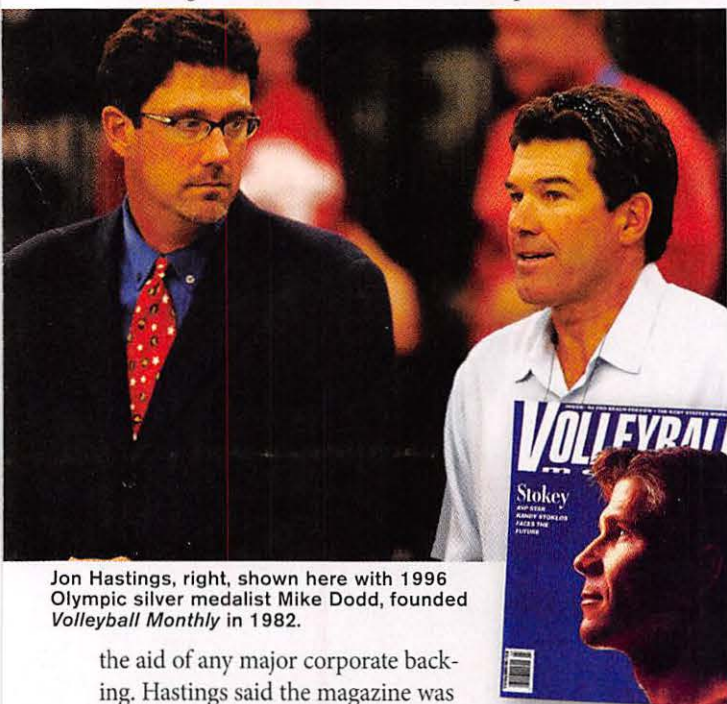
"We captured the flavor of the sport at a time when it was mushrooming in popularity," said Lee, who traveled the world covering the sport for the magazine.

Volleyball Monthly

The sport's next major media player was *Volleyball Monthly*, a publication started in 1982 by California beach player Jon Hastings and his business partner, Dennis Steers. *Volleyball Monthly* began in a tabloid newspaper format (14½ by 10½ and printed on newsprint) and provided readers with the latest news, results and features from the volleyball world—information rarely disseminated in any media form back then.

"I loved the game and there was a void in the marketplace," said Hastings.

Hastings and Steers started and ran the publication without



Jon Hastings, right, shown here with 1996 Olympic silver medalist Mike Dodd, founded *Volleyball Monthly* in 1982.

the aid of any major corporate backing. Hastings said the magazine was funded by the \$9.95 checks they got back from initial subscribers. Hastings said they mailed out 20,000 copies of the first issue to USVBA members with a subscription offer.

"We got lots of checks back," said Hastings, whose slogan, which he deemed "corny," was "It's cheaper than a pizza with more stuff inside."

Volleyball Monthly would go on to chronicle many of the sport's defining stories, including the 1984 and 1988 Olympics and the emergence and explosion of the professional beach game.

Another Player

Volleyball Monthly remained the sport's lone printed media voice until 1990 when *Volleyball* was founded by Australian Clyde Packer's Western Empire Publications, which also counted surfing and body boarding titles in its magazine dossier. The magazine started as a bimonthly and evolved into a 12 times a year publication in 1991.

"*Volleyball Monthly* was the magazine. It had no competition," said former *Volleyball* editor Rick Hazeltine. "Was there room for two magazines? The sport was growing so well. Clyde Packer decided there was room."

Hazeltine, who came to *Volleyball* from the San Diego edition of the *Los Angeles Times*, set out to distinguish his magazine from *Volleyball Monthly*.

"*Volleyball Monthly* did a lot of things well. We wanted to see what we could do differently," said Hazeltine, who later logged a seven-year stint as assistant sports editor at the *Los Angeles Daily News*. "We were heavy on instruction with the premise of players getting better. If you look at golf, tennis and bowling magazines, it's usually about the players getting better."

For a time, there was room for both publications.

"I think the magazines were an important link for the sport," said Don Patterson, former executive editor of *Volleyball*, who worked for the publication from 1991-2002. "They helped disseminate information and developed stars. They gave people who were interested in playing the sport some context because major mediums were not covering volleyball."

The magazine, which featured talented photographers Peter Brouillet (who remained with *Volleyball* until 2002) and Robert Beck (*Sports Illustrated*), was later transferred in 1993 to Avcom, another of Packer's business divisions. Avcom also printed titles such as *Car Audio* and *Audio Video Interiors*.

The Merger

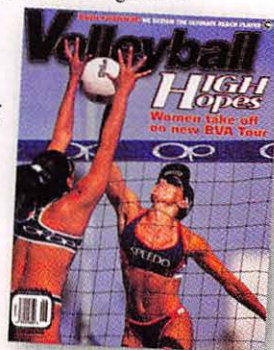
In late 1994, Hastings and Steers sold *Volleyball Monthly* to Packer. Hastings called the move a "logical evolution" and noted Packer's company "made us a sound financial offer."

The two magazines were combined in February 1995 to create what is today's *Volleyball*.

"When we merged, that was interesting, if not tense," said Hazeltine. "They had so much more invested in what they did. There were definitely tensions when Clyde bought (*Volleyball Monthly*). But we were all pros and worked through it. We combined our editorial staff with their sales people and publisher. At the end of the day, it made it a better magazine."

"Jon and Dennis took *Volleyball Monthly* from nothing with their own money and own time and made it what it was," said Patterson. "It was a big deal for them. All of a sudden a competitor is coming into what they built. It was tough on both magazines with a small market to compete in. It made sense to merge and build one strong magazine."

Packer sold the magazine in mid-1997 to McMullen Argus, a division of magazine publisher Primedia. Hazeltine stayed on the job ▶



July/August 1990 USA \$2.95 Canada \$2.95 Australia \$3.50



OLLEYBALL

**special
collector's
edition**

Volume 1, Number 1

Season of Fury

**Pro Beach
Rocks the USA!**

Passing:

**All You Need to Know
By Terry Liskevych**

Profile:

Karch Kiraly

**Straight Talk
with the World's
Greatest Player**



July/August 1990

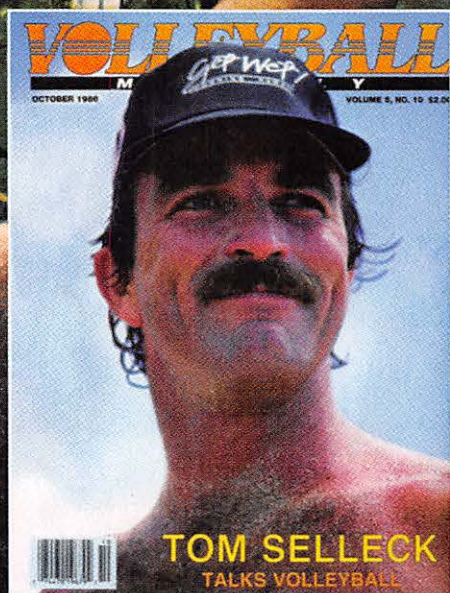
The current incarnation of *Volleyball* made its debut with pro beach player **Brent Frohoff** on the cover. All-time beach wins leader **Karch Kiraly** was profiled, while former women's Olympic coach **Terry Liskevych** presented a "how to" passing guide. An in-depth look at the men's college game was also featured.

Volleyball

MAGAZINE

NUMBER 8 JULY/AUGUST \$1.50

**WILT
CHAMBERLAIN:
PRO VOLLEYBALL'S
BIG KAHUNA**



Celebrity Influence

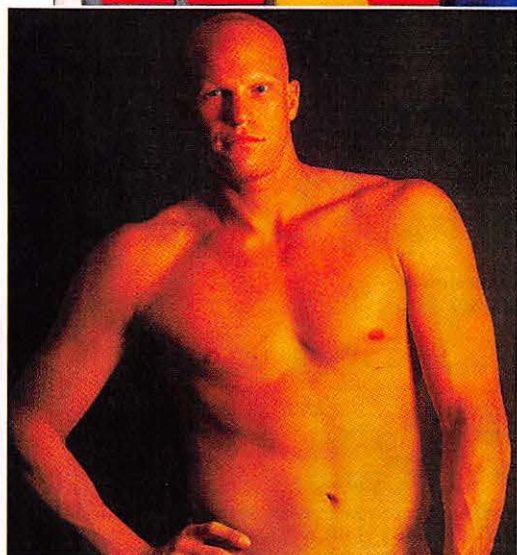
NBA legend Wilt Chamberlain, featured on the July/August 1977 cover of *Volleyball*, was also an avid volleyball enthusiast who helped found the International Volleyball Association. In this issue he discussed the influence volleyball had on his life and his hopes for the sport's future at the professional level. The emerging trend of cash prizes at California beach tournaments was also featured in the magazine. Actor Tom Selleck (inset), best known for his work on "Magnum P.I.," was featured on the October 1986 cover of *Volleyball Monthly*. Selleck played in a number of tournaments in the 1980s and was the honorary captain of the 1984 U.S. Men's Olympic Team that won a gold medal.

VOLLEYBALL

monthly

GOING FOR THE KILL

Natalie Williams
and the UCLA
Bruins gun for a
perfect season



SCOTT WEISING

Controversy

The January 1993 issue of *Volleyball Monthly* featured a full-page photo of former U.S. Men's National Team player **Bob Samuelson** wearing nothing except a strategically placed volleyball. The photo (shown here, lower left) created a firestorm of controversy in the volleyball community at the time.

"I did a shoot for an article and the photographer had an extra roll of film," said Samuelson. "He said I could take 'any shots I wanted' with the remaining roll. I thought it would be a funny Christmas card since it was around fall, so I suggested the picture. He promised I would get the roll and they wouldn't be published. Next thing you know, they're in the magazine. It didn't bother me in the least."

The reaction of his coach and teammates varied.

"My coach at the time, Fred Sturm, was not happy about it," said Samuelson. "Everybody else was kind of like, 'Uh, OK. I guess if you are comfortable with

it...' Most of the response I received was positive, but then again, people aren't going to tell me personally if they thought it was lame. Most of the people who know me well were like, 'Freaking Sammy. What a knucklehead.' It was really just supposed to be a funny goofing around picture for myself and it turned out to be this big deal, much like a lot of the trouble I got in."

Samuelson said what he did pales in comparison to a lot of things in the media these days.

"It's funny now, because it's so tame compared to what you see," said Samuelson. "I saw the entire USA Men's Water Polo Team do a calendar like that to raise money for the program—Australia women's basketball too. There was an Olympic girls' photo spread in *Playboy* for crying out loud."

Samuelson says the shot still comes up in conversation from time to time.

"Somehow, a group of female co-workers came across it recently, trapped me in the break room and confronted me about it," said Samuelson. "Very uncomfortable."

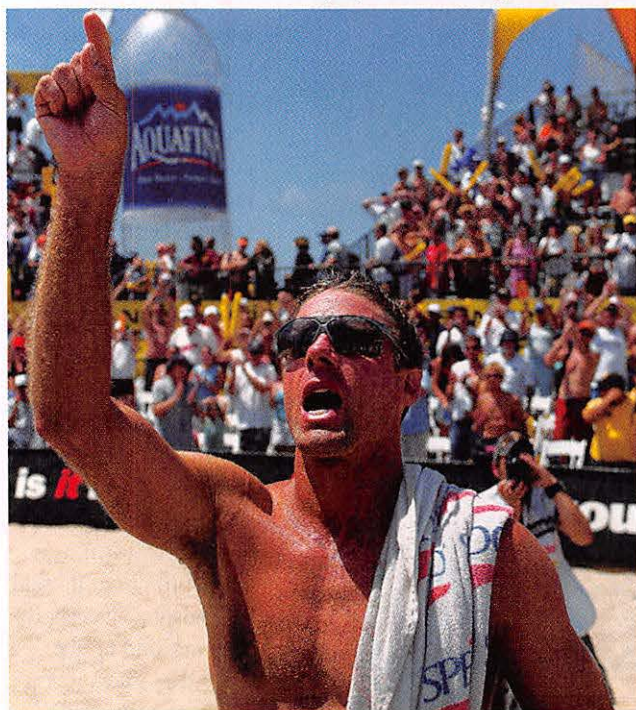
a year after the sale to Primedia. Hastings, Steers, Patterson and longtime advertising manager Paul Gabriel continued as the faces of the magazine until Primedia, in an ill-fated move in 2002, sold *Volleyball* to now-defunct Ashton International Media out of Worcester, Mass.

Volleyball's current owner, Boston-based Madavor Media, LLC, purchased *Volleyball* in 2004 along with four other Ashton titles. Madavor Media is a leading, rapidly growing enthusiast publishing company with a strong base in sports, crafts and collectible titles. The company's other publications include: *International Figure Skating*, *Women's Basketball*, *Doll Reader*, *Teddy Bear & Friends* and *Dollhouse Miniatures*.

Impact On the Sport

Longtime Pepperdine men's coach Marv Dunphy says the presence of volleyball-specific magazines over the last 30 years is a point of major significance in the sport's advancement.

"Back then, that was our Internet," said Dunphy, who directed the 1988 U.S. Men's Olympic Team to a gold medal.



JAMES RUSSON

In high school, sport legend Karch Kiraly drew inspiration from photos of international players in issues of the original *Volleyball Magazine*.

"It was huge. In every sport, there are significant events and significant people that help give form to the sport. Without question, *Volleyball* magazine has done that for our sport. I'd say of the five or six things that have helped legitimize our sport, *Volleyball* magazine would be in that group."

"It's been important for the growth of the sport and it is still very important," said UCLA men's coach Al Scates, who recalled a parody of sorts in a very early volleyball magazine about how the cavemen would have played the sport.

Former U.S. Men's National Team player Byron Shewman, who was featured in the first-ever *Volleyball Magazine* in 1976, later wrote for the current *Volleyball* in the mid-1990s.

"It was the Internet," said Shewman, who now runs the Starlings youth volleyball program. "That's a good analogy to

its importance. People would always be waiting to see who would be on the cover and who was in it. It really gave you a sense that it was a bona fide sport."

And it continues to be a sport with people hungry for information.

"People at some point become passionate about something whether it's knitting or antique cars or something else," said Mikasa Sports USA president Richard McCoy, whose company's association with volleyball magazines dates back to that first 1976 issue of *Volleyball Magazine*. "They want to get the publications that show more stuff. That's what *Volleyball* magazine does. It shows you more stuff about the sport."

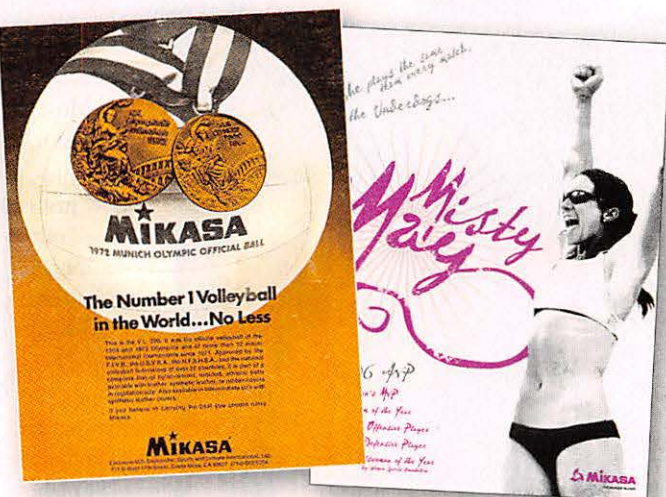
USA Volleyball CEO Doug Beal, who coached the 1984 U.S. Men's Olympic Team to a gold medal, feels the impact of three decades of volleyball magazines will continue to be felt moving forward.

"If we want to grow as a sport and remain at the forefront of the public's mind and awareness, you have to have these vehicles to let people know what is going on in our world," said Beal. "*Volleyball* magazine has given tremendous visible credibility to volleyball and has provided something way beyond an entertainment and communication vehicle. It's hard to overvalue the important consistency and ongoing viability the magazine has provided." ■



Sport Recognition

Volleyball has been honored by a variety of organizations over the years. The magazine was the recipient of the Volleyball Hall of Fame William G. Morgan Award in 2002. The magazine has also been the recipient of the Volleyball Festival's Distinguished Service Award. Former editors Rick Hazeltine (1992) and Don Patterson (2002) were winners of USA Volleyball's E. Douglas Boyden Media Recognition Award. Current *Volleyball* Editor in Chief Mike Miazga (pictured, above) was the recipient of the Boyden honor in 2005.



Volleyball manufacturer Mikasa ran an advertisement on the back cover of the 1976 charter issue of the original *Volleyball Magazine*. Thirty years later, Mikasa still occupies the back cover.

INSIDE: TORNADO BALL TRAINING • ADAM JEWELL • SAM TORTORELLO

Volleyball

CORNERING THE GOLD MARKET

Misty May and Kerri Walsh Won It All In Athens



November 2004

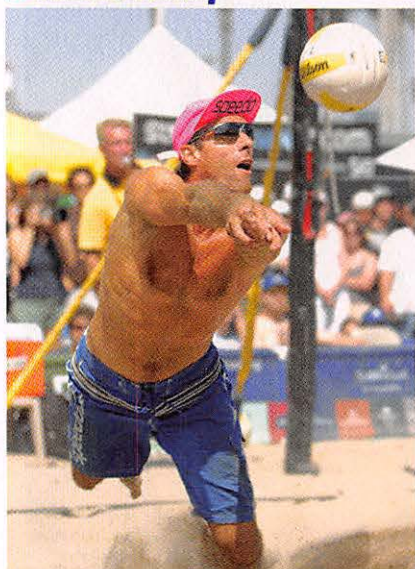
In unquestionably the biggest moment in American women's beach volleyball history, Misty May-Treanor and Kerri Walsh won the gold medal at the 2004 Summer Olympics in Athens, Greece. Despite May-Treanor battling a stomach injury for most of the summer, the duo was unstoppable in Athens, amassing a 7-0 record (without losing a game) en route to becoming the first American women's team to win a beach volleyball gold medal.

The 30 Most Recognizable Names In Volleyball

Editor's Note: Volleyball recently took a random sampling of readers, coaches, players, media members and industry executives to find out who they felt were the most recognizable names in the sport. Each individual was asked to pick who they felt were the three most recognizable names. Here are the results:

The Big 3

1 Karch Kiraly

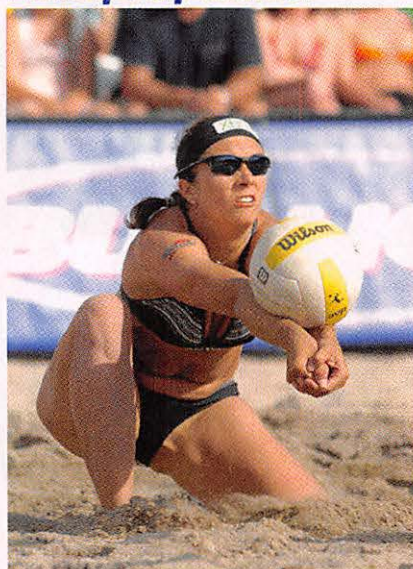


JAMES RULSON

Notable: 3-time Olympic gold medalist

Pct. of ballots appeared on: **71%**

2 Misty May-Treanor

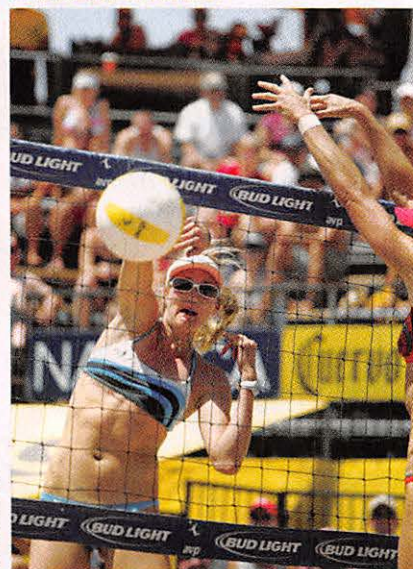


JAMES RULSON

Notable: 2004 Olympic gold medalist

Pct. of ballots appeared on: **50%**

3 Kerri Walsh



NICK DOAN

Notable: 2004 Olympic gold medalist

Pct. of ballots appeared on: **35%**

The Rest of the Top 10

4 Sinjin Smith

Notable: 139 career beach wins

5 Al Scates

Notable: Legendary UCLA men's coach

Tie 6 Doug Beal

Notable: Current USA Volleyball CEO

Tie 6 Gabrielle Reece

Notable: Former beach player/actress

8 Logan Tom

Notable: Indoor great; 2-time Olympian

9 Holly McPeak

Notable: 2004 Olympic bronze medalist

10 Andy Banachowski

Notable: UCLA women's coach



Sinjin Smith

Gabby Reece

Andy Banachowski

UCLA

11-30

- 11 Mike Lambert** (AVP men's player)
- 12 Dave Shoji** (Hawaii women's coach)
- 13 Flo Hyman** (U.S. women's great)
- 14 Mary Wise** (Florida women's coach)
- 15 Russ Rose** (Penn State women's coach)
- 16 Chris Marlowe** (Olympic gold medalist, broadcaster)
- 17 Mike Dodd** (1996 Olympic silver medalist)
- 18 Debbie Green-Vargas** (U.S. women's great)
- 19 Ron Von Hagen** (beach great)
- 20 Dr. Ruben Acosta** (FIVB president)
- 21 Lang Ping** (U.S. women's coach)
- 22 Elaine Youngs** (2004 Olympic bronze medalist)
- 23 Randy Stoklos** (beach great)
- 24 Lloy Ball** (U.S. men's team setter)
- 25 Marv Dunphy** (legendary Pepperdine men's coach)
- 26 Gene Selznick** (beach and indoor great)
- 27 Mick Haley** (USC women's coach)
- 28 Terry Liskevych** (Olympic coach; Oregon St. women's coach)
- 29 John Dunning** (Stanford women's coach)
- Tie 30 Ogonna Nnamani** (Stanford women's great)
- Tie 30 John Cook** (Nebraska women's coach)



Mary Wise



Lang Ping



Lloy Ball



Dr. Ruben Acosta (right)

TOP 5's

All-Time Men's Players

- 1 Karch Kiraly**
- 2 Sinjin Smith**
- 3 Mike Lambert**
- 4 Chris Marlowe**
- 5 Mike Dodd**

All-Time Women's Players

- 1 Misty May-Treanor**
- 2 Kerri Walsh**
- 3 Gabrielle Reece**
- 4 Logan Tom**
- 5 Holly McPeak**

All-Time Men's Coaches

- 1 Al Scates**
- 2 Doug Beal**
- 3 Marv Dunphy**
- 4 Carl McGown**
- 5 Arnie Ball**

All-Time Women's Coaches

- 1 Andy Banachowski**
- 2 Dave Shoji**
- 3 Mary Wise**
- 4 Russ Rose**
- 5 Lang Ping**

Current Men's Players

- 1 Karch Kiraly**
- 2 Mike Lambert**
- 3 Giba (Brazil)**

Note: No other current men's player appeared on two or more ballots

Current Women's Players

- 1 Misty May-Treanor**
- 2 Kerri Walsh**
- 3 Logan Tom**
- 4 Holly McPeak**
- 5 Ogonna Nnamani**

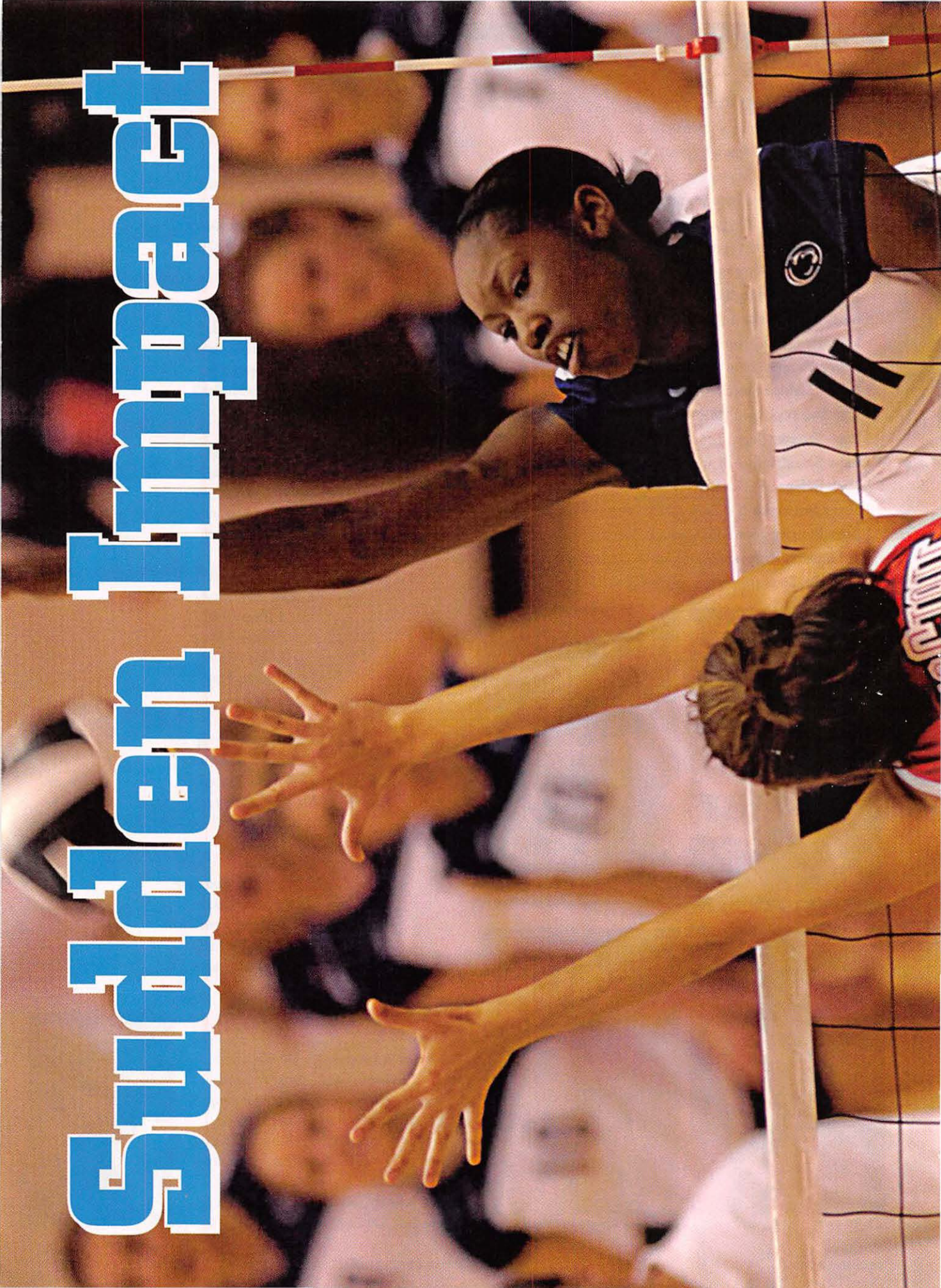
How Do You Spell That?

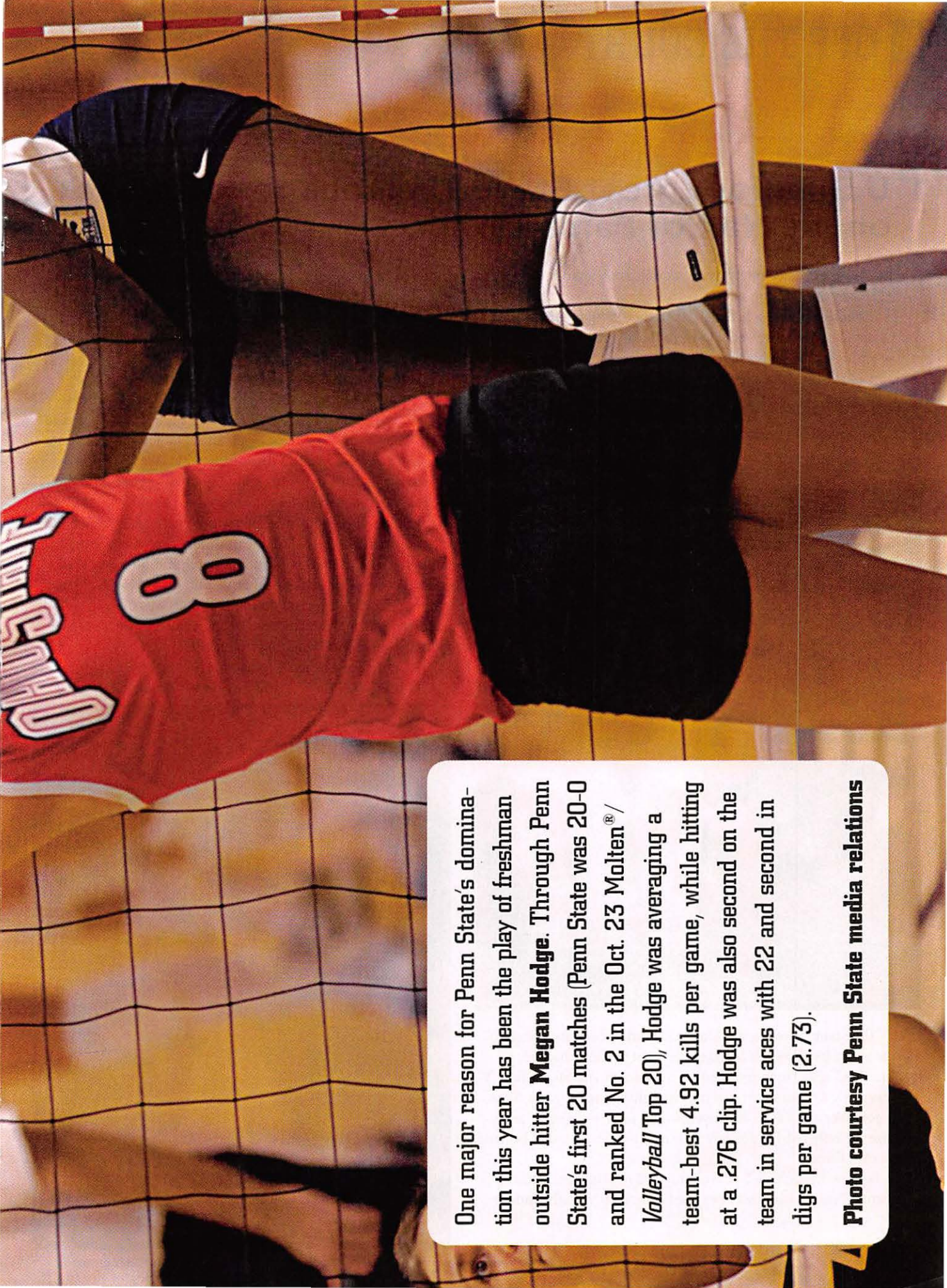
Beach legend Karch Kiraly was the runaway winner of the most recognizable name voting. But voters had some interesting ways of spelling his name. The most popular misspelling was Karch Kiray, followed by: Karch Karily, Karcy Kiraly, Karch Kirally, Karch Kirey, Karch Kilrally, Karch Karaly, Karch Karai and Karck Kiraly.



JAMES RULISON

Sudden Impact





One major reason for Penn State's domination this year has been the play of freshman outside hitter **Megan Hodge**. Through Penn State's first 20 matches (Penn State was 20-0 and ranked No. 2 in the Oct. 23 Molten®/*Volleyball* Top 20), Hodge was averaging a team-best 4.92 kills per game, while hitting at a .276 clip. Hodge was also second on the team in service aces with 22 and second in digs per game (2.73).

Photo courtesy Penn State media relations

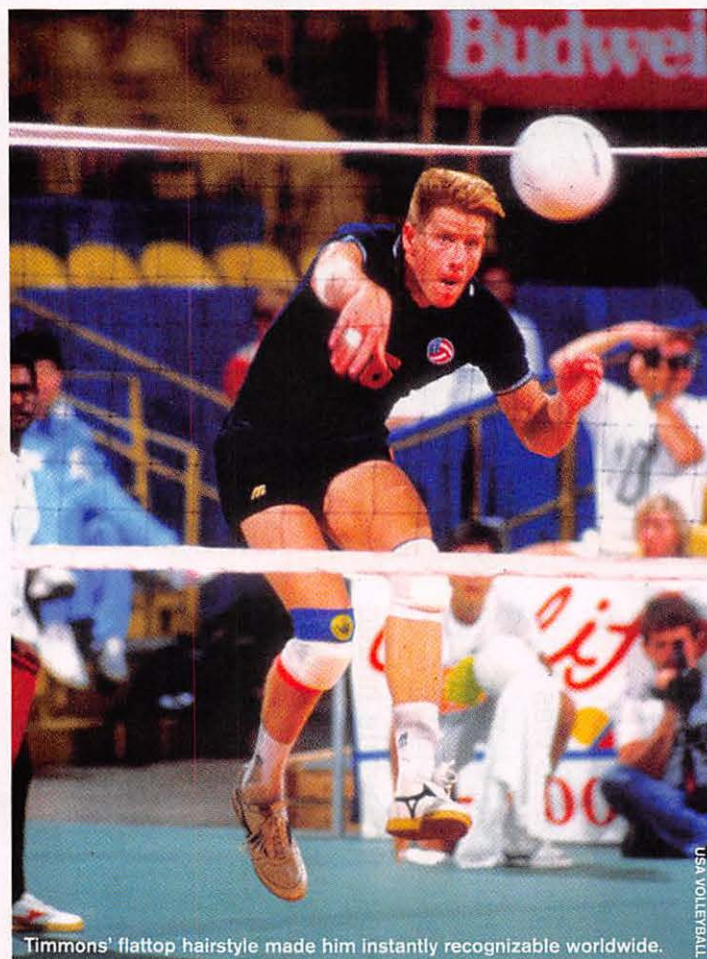
Painting the Town Red

U.S. indoor great Steve Timmons reflects back on his Hall of Fame career.

By Kevin Titterton

Style and substance rarely merge as well as they did for the legendary Steve Timmons.

A star during the sport's heyday in the 1980s, the three-time Olympian became as well known for his flying back row attack as for his highly visible hairstyle—a fiery red flattop that defined him as one of the game's most memorable characters.

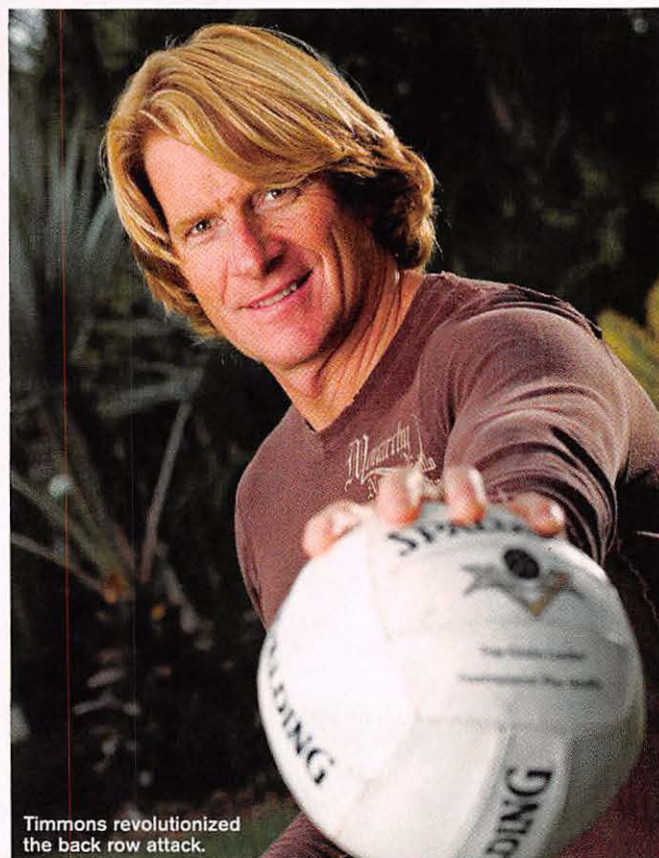


game was his pioneering approach to back row hitting, a technique that created a powerful offensive force and helped shape his Olympic teams' playing style. Timmons' popularization of back row hitting has changed team strategy. Today, it is commonplace in the sport.

"Hitting out of the back row was something that not a lot of teams did, and they didn't do it that often," said Timmons, who played on the U.S. Men's Olympic Team in 1984, 1988, and 1992. "They didn't do it to side out. So it's something that we, over time, worked on and I became better at. We started using it more as we became more efficient to not only spread the court and side out, but also in transition when we couldn't get the ball up to the net. It became more of a weapon as I got better at it."

The teams Timmons played with featured some of the biggest names the sport has seen, including Karch Kiraly, Dusty Dvorak, Pat Powers, Craig Buck and Dave Saunders to name just a few. Team USA's chief rival during the 1980s was the USSR, and contests between the teams were accompanied by high levels of international tension resulting from the Cold War.

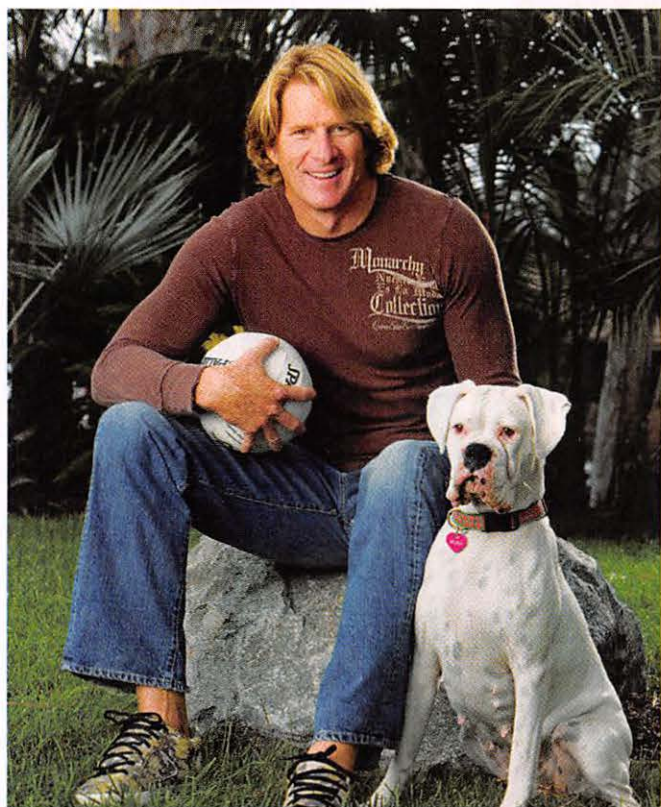
"The Soviets had been the best team and were kind of the team to beat," said the 6'5" USC graduate. "We beat them four



"(The flattop) was something that I did to dedicate myself to the sport, like how the Marines get it cut to show that they're Marines," said Timmons, who now resides in Del Mar, Calif. "I was going to commit myself fully by getting the buzz cut. Then it got taller and flatter as the years went on. It got easy to recognize the only red-headed guy with a flattop, so it kind of became its own thing."

But gravity-defying hair was only one of Timmons' achievements. Perhaps his most important contribution to the indoor

straight times leading up to the 1984 Olympics, and they announced the boycott after the first match that we beat them. You could see the wind go out of their sails when they realized their dream wasn't going to come true. It was sad because neither of us had anything to do with politics.



Timmons, shown here with his dog, Brandy, was inducted into the Volleyball Hall of Fame in 1988.

"After winning the '84 Olympics a lot of people were saying, 'You wouldn't have won it if the Russians were there.' We wanted to prove we were the best team in the world, so we continued to play and work hard and fought all those things leading up to the '88 games (Team USA won gold again in 1988). Playing over there during that time, knowing they were sort of our enemy, you always felt like there was a listening device in the hotel room with cameras. It was a little uneasy."

Timmons, who was named MVP of the 1984 Olympics, suffered a knee injury at a tournament in Korea shortly after the Olympics. With time to kill at home and no promise of returning to volleyball, he formed an idea that eventually led to the creation of a beachwear kingpin—Redsand.

"I came up with this idea for an optic colored (like a tennis ball) volleyball that you could see on the beach. I hooked up with an artist friend of mine, Jim Austin, and he came up with the logo, a flattop character of myself, and we just went from there. We started printing T-shirts and got into the whole action sports industry, and just rode that with me being the visible marketing side of things and Jim being the creative side."

After recovering from his knee injury, Timmons returned to competitive play while remaining involved in the development of Redsand. In 1985, he helped his team to wins at both the USA Cup and the World Cup, and in 1986 led his team to the World Championships title and a sweep of volleyball's "Triple

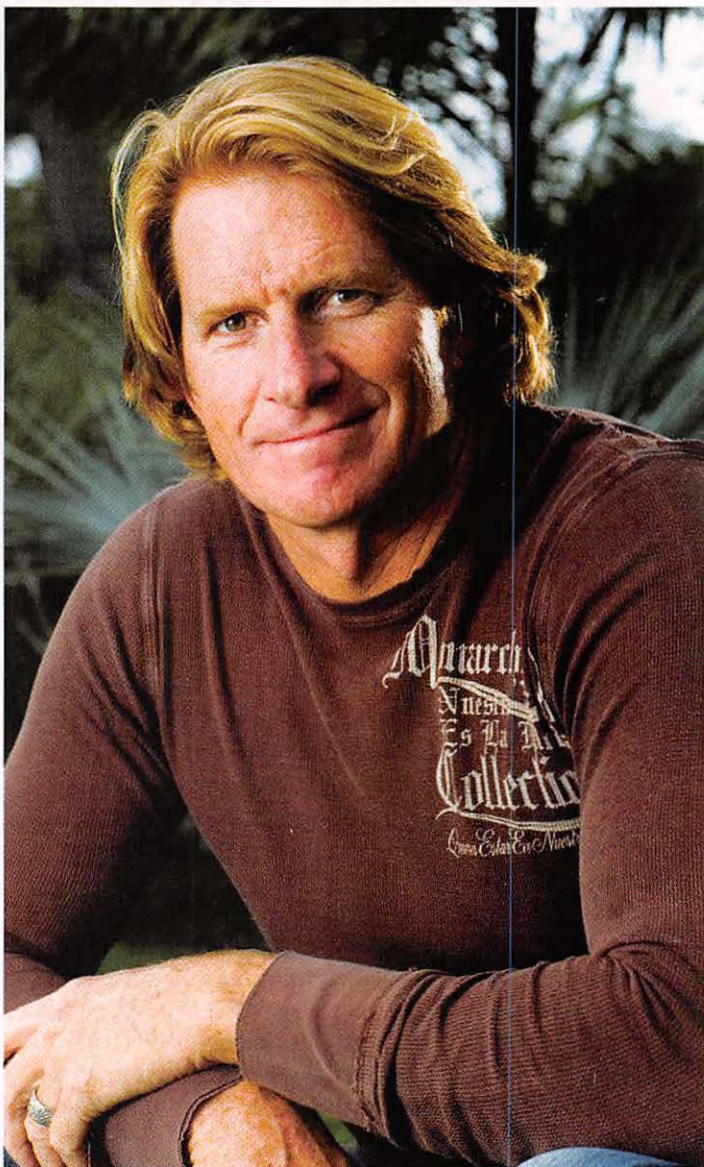
Crown" (Olympics, World Cup, and World Championships). Timmons continued playing competitively for several more years, winning bronze at the 1992 Olympics (Barcelona, Spain) with Team USA as well as enjoying a brief but successful career with Il Messaggero of Ravenna, Italy.

In 2004, after 18 years of building Redsand from the ground up, Timmons, Austin and partner Robert Lusitana sold the company to Perry Ellis for an undisclosed sum.

Today, Timmons works in real estate and lives with his wife, Debbie Dunning, who is best known as Heidi Keppert, the "Tool Time" girl on the ABC sitcom "Home Improvement," and their children, Stoney and Spencer.

Though he recently played in the Karch Kiraly Invitational in Huntington Beach, Calif., Timmons said he's retired from the competitive game and plays for fun.

This means that the famous flattop, sadly, has also been retired. ■



Timmons helped the U.S. Men's Olympic Team win gold medals in 1984 and 1988.

POSED PHOTOS BY MIKE NOWAK

Steve Timmons on the Net:

Famous Flattops: www.pathguy.com/flattop.htm

Famous Redheads: www.redandproud.com

2006 Volleyball Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

Six more members and the Japan Volleyball Association were welcomed into this elite fraternity.

By Kevin Titterton



From left, JVA managing director Norio Yamagishi, Ed Skorek, Nina Smoleeva, Endre Holvay, Jackie Silva, Bernie Holtzman, Teruko and Keiichiro Yamada (wife and son of Shigeo Yamada) are shown at this year's induction ceremony.

HOLYOKE, Mass.—An idyllic autumn day welcomed visitors to the Volleyball Hall of Fame recently for the 21st annual enshrinement ceremony.

This year's inductees spanned the globe and featured greats from several playing eras, including Endre Holvay (Hungary), Edward Skorek (Poland), Nina Smoleeva (Hungary), Shigeo Yamada (Japan), and perhaps the best known of the group, Bernie Holtzman (USA) and Jackie Silva (Brazil). The Japan Volleyball Association was also honored for its contributions to the game.

Silva, who launched her playing career at the ripe age of 9, became a symbol of the sport by amassing over 100 wins at beach and indoor events. Silva also won the gold medal at the inaugural women's beach event at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics. Silva, the 1994 AVP tour MVP, is now a renowned philanthropist in Brazil where she heads the Jackie Silva Institute, an anti-drug abuse sports project that serves approximately 4,000 children in 30 different communities.

"To be a part of this family really means a lot to me," said Silva, visibly touched as she gave her acceptance speech. "I have to acknowledge that I've had the chance to see (the other inductees) in action. I saw Edward playing with the national Polish team when they were first to hit from the backcourt. I saw Nina and her team play, and they were always jumping,

ready to kill anyone. With Bernie, when I got to California, I heard a lot about him and I have his book with the photo of him kissing a lady.

"After you finish playing, most players don't know what they're going to do. But it makes me happy to be a coach now and to help the kids in my country, because there are so many kids with no opportunity to play. It makes me happy and gives me back the feeling I had when I was playing. This is the life that sports gave to me and it has filled my life, so I have to give it back in some way."

Holtzman has been famously quoted as describing volleyball as "God's gift to the beach bum." While growing up in Hollywood, Calif., the beach pioneer began playing in 1935 at age 13, when beach volleyball was primarily a recreational game and championships were few and far between. However, of the two or three annual "Open" tournaments per year, Holtzman managed to combine for 28 career titles with partners Manny Saenz and Gene Selznick. He continued to play until 2004, when he finally hung it up at age 82.

"I've been in volleyball all my life, don't ask me how long," said Holtzman, who was on the receiving end of a few jokes about his longevity during his introduction by USA Volleyball president Al Monaco. "I've met a lot of people all over the world. It's a wonderful sport to keep people in shape and for getting



PHOTOS BY VOLLEYBALL HALL OF FAME ARCHIVE/RALPH JASINSKI - GRINN & BARRETT STUDIOS

Bernie Holtzman entertained with a humorous acceptance speech.

along with others. Everybody I ever met in volleyball I liked."

Holtzman then proceeded to read a poem he'd written entitled "Maturity," saying that he'd written in 1995, on the sport's 100-year anniversary, since he'd "played for most of it." ■

Maturity

By Bernie Holtzman

Volleyball is here to stay

100 short years up to today

Loads of delicate ball handlers and bumpers galore

Setters and spikers by the score

Sagacious strategists employing their skills

Health nuts taking their pills

Blockers swarming the net

While spikers keep blaming the set

Defensive wizards guarding the court with unwitting pleasure

In such a dangerous sport

Servers with varying approaches

Standing or jumping or moving like roaches

Coaches and managers, brain trusts of all kinds

Steering and guiding and hoping for new finds

Volleyball, the game once called "God's gift to the bum" along the beach

Is now accepted at all reaches

Those who laughed at a pitty-pat sport

Are now taking their places on the court

The world has embraced a late bloomer, so to speak

The pass, set, spike is at its peak

Volleyball, a hundred year-old phenomenon, has finally come of age

Those who play it and love it will never turn the page.

SPORTS IMPORTS raises the bar AGAIN

ANNOUNCING

STEALTH

SENOH'S LIGHTWEIGHT POWER UPRIGHT

**Senoh value
for a lifetime of play.**



SPORTS IMPORTS
your source for Senoh

800-556-3198

www.sportsimports.com



Sports Imports announces the new carbon fiber Senoh Stealth Volleyball Upright — the first competition net system from a leading and trusted manufacturer to feature aerospace composite technology.

The sophisticated composite carbon fiber provides an unbelievably lightweight competition net system with strength and deflection three times stronger than aluminum.

Stealth Volleyball Uprights Feature:

Weights 26 pounds

Superior strength at the lightest weight

NCAA is a registered trademark of the National Collegiate Athletic Association

Opening Doors

The Starlings program continues to play a vital role in the country's youth volleyball landscape.

By Kevin Titterton

On the surface, volleyball would seem a sport just about anyone should have access to. All you really need is a ball, a net and a few friends.

But the reality of the situation, unfortunately, isn't that simple. For many kids, particularly in inner-city environments, the mere cost of joining a club team prevents them from ever picking up the white leather ball.

The Starlings program has spent the last 11 years trying to change that. Founded in San Diego, Calif., by Byron Shewman, a former USA Men's National Team member (1971-75) who also spent time playing and coaching in Europe, the program began with a vision of finally giving disadvantaged minority athletes an opportunity to play.

"The real genesis was that I was doing quite a bit of reading on racism, if you will," said Shewman. "I just got interested in it and the history of it. And that kind of opened my eyes to the sort of legacy that had been left, so I just decided that I wanted to do something to combat it on whatever level I could. I thought the only thing I could really make a difference in would be sports."

Shewman began his attempt at Lincoln High School in San Diego, Calif., a predominantly African American school that produced such professional football stars as Terrell Davis and Marcus Allen.

Lincoln, unable at that point to field a volleyball team, launched the first Starlings team under the coaching staff of Shewman and former U.S. Women's Olympic Team member Kim Oden. Though the team had a rocky first season—half of the team's players were kicked off during the season due to attitude problems—the remaining girls were committed enough to stay for a second season.

Since that time, Starlings has grown into a loose affiliation of clubs that stretches across the nation. Hosting an annual national tournament in San Diego that this year hopes to

attract over 70 teams, the non-profit organization prides itself on accepting any minority athlete who wants a chance. That means a lot of fundraising and individual perseverance from coaches is a must in order for teams to succeed.

"Typically it's one person who starts a club and often there's little parental support, so the people who do it are very committed," said Shewman. "They're great people and I can't say enough for them. People don't realize what they go through. In the hardcore inner-city environments, in order to get the girls to commit, you have to somehow get them (to practice and matches) and get them home, and some of them live in dangerous areas.

"In Oakland one time, they had their first tryout one

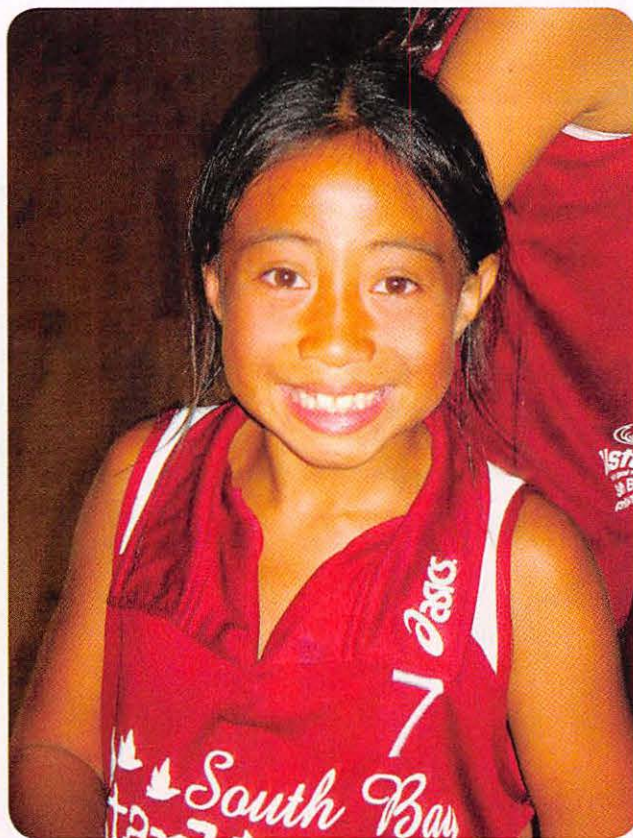
evening, and the afternoon before there was a drive-by shooting that killed a student right in front of the school. Another time a mother had her car jacked at a practice. Needless to say it's not like the normal volleyball scene."

In addition to giving girls an arena in which to play, Starlings does its best to encourage the players' creative talents through an annual literary/art contest. The organization recently published a collection of poems, essays and artwork—"A Chance to Fly"—taken from these contests to celebrate its 10th anniversary, with a foreword written by Karch Kiraly.

"I think the whole sports mania in America is kind of on an unhealthy path in this quest for excellence and greatness, and a contract

and scholarship and whatever else, so I have evolved into kind of a holistic approach," said Shewman. "So it's an avenue where girls can have some fun and enjoy themselves and we try to teach them some values as well."

Nicole Moreno, a senior at University Senior High School (Los Angeles, Calif.), came into the program with no prior volleyball experience. She has been deeply affected by it.



A young South Bay Starlings player



The Four Corners Starlings 18s from Ganado, Ariz.

"Starlings helped me build up my abilities to play, my strength and definitely my confidence level to know that no matter what happens on the court, win or lose, I played my best game and had fun doing it," said Moreno, who last season helped her Starlings team to the bronze medal in the Silver Division 18s. "That was the kind of influence I needed to play this sport. I will definitely make the best of it and come back and take on the coaching roll later in life so I can help other players who want to be great at this sport."

The desire to remain involved with Starlings after playing eligibility has expired is something Shewman said he's been seeing more of among ex-players.

"About eight years ago we had a girl from South Central L.A., Kristal Credit, whose team disbanded and I got her onto a San Diego team for nationals," said Shewman. "She was a good athlete and wanted to play, but was a very poor girl, and she ended up getting a scholarship to Grambling, became all-conference, and eventually landed a nice job in Dallas, Texas. Next thing I know, she's coaching a Starlings team in Dallas. You don't realize the impact sometimes, so that's very cool to see."

As a program that has come a long way in a short amount of time, Shewman said he feels optimistic about Star-

lings' future and hopes it can reach even more young people.

"I'm getting the impression that the word's getting out," he said. "There are just so many girls who want to play. And it's just getting more exclusive as a sport and it isn't going to stop. We just piece it together as best we can."

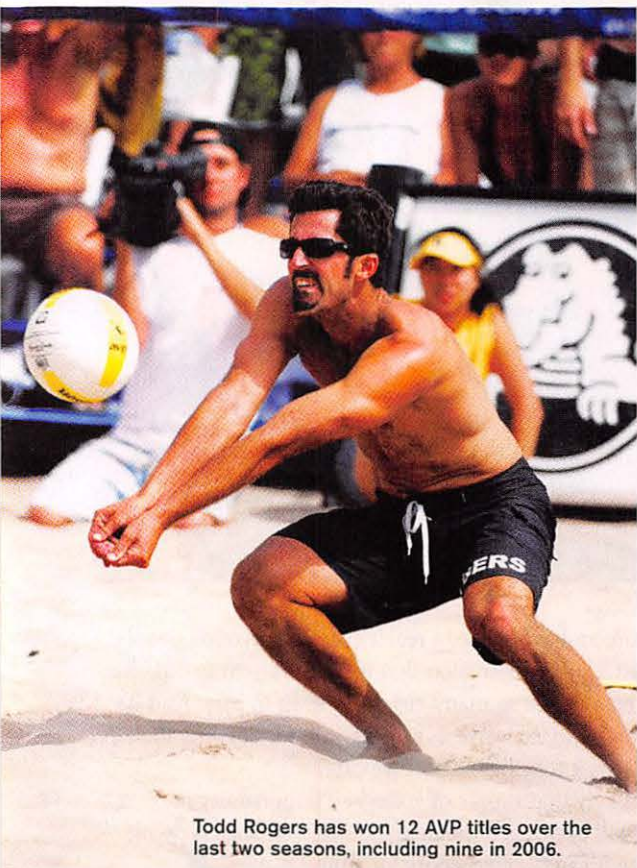
It is unlikely that supply of volleyball opportunity in America will ever reach the demand. But Starlings is doing everything it can to open doors for young players. ■



The South Central L.A. Starlings 16s

ALL PHOTOS PROVIDED

2006 Volleyball



Todd Rogers has won 12 AVP titles over the last two seasons, including nine in 2006.

Men's Division

Most Valuable Player: Todd Rogers
Team of the Year: Mike Lambert-Stein Metzger
Newcomer of the Year: Brad Keenan
Most Improved: Aaron Wachtfogel-Hans Stoflus

Team of the Year Winners

2003: Dain Blanton-Jeff Nygaard
2004: Karch Kiraly-Mike Lambert
2005: Dax Holdren-Stein Metzger
2006: Mike Lambert-Stein Metzger

2006 AVP Crocs Cup Standings

1. Mike Lambert-Stein Metzger (4,524 points)
2. Phil Dalhausser-Todd Rogers (4,518 points)
3. Jake Gibb-Sean Rosenthal (3,610 points)
4. Matt Fuerbringer-Casey Jennings (3,492 points)
5. Dax Holdren-Sean Scott (3,274 points)

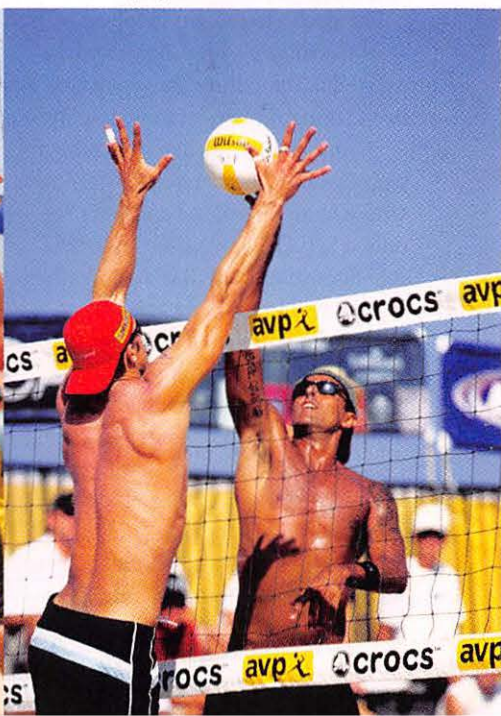
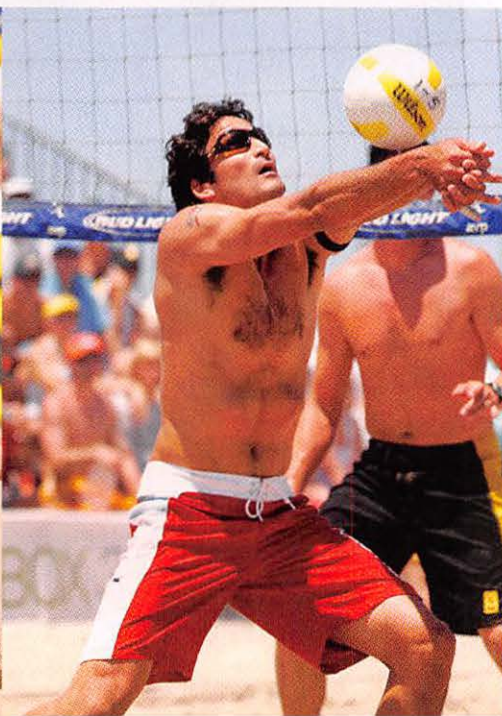
AVP Statistical Leaders

Wins: Todd Rogers (9)
Earnings: Todd Rogers (\$163,975)
Aces: Fred Souza (155)
Blocks: Phil Dalhausser (432)
Digs: Casey Jennings (994)
Kill percentage: Phil Dalhausser (.481)

▼ Casey Jennings (pictured) and partner Matt Fuerbringer finished fourth on the men's tour.

▼ Mike Lambert

▼ Fred Souza topped all men's players with 155 service aces.



all



Awards

Women's Division

Most Valuable Player: Misty May-Treanor
Team of the Year: Misty May-Treanor-Kerri Walsh
Newcomer of the Year: Logan Tom
Most Improved: Nicole Branagh

Team of the Year Winners

2003: Misty May-Treanor-Kerri Walsh
2004: Holly McPeak-Elaine Youngs
2005: Misty May-Treanor-Kerri Walsh
2006: Misty May-Treanor-Kerri Walsh

2006 AVP Crocs Cup Standings

1. Misty May-Treanor-Kerri Walsh (4,920 points)
2. Annett Davis-Jenny Johnson Jordan (3,510 points)
3. Rachel Wacholder-Elaine Youngs (3,504 points)
4. Nicole Branagh-Holly McPeak (3,110 points)
5. Dianne DeNecochea-Tammy Leibl (2,968 points)

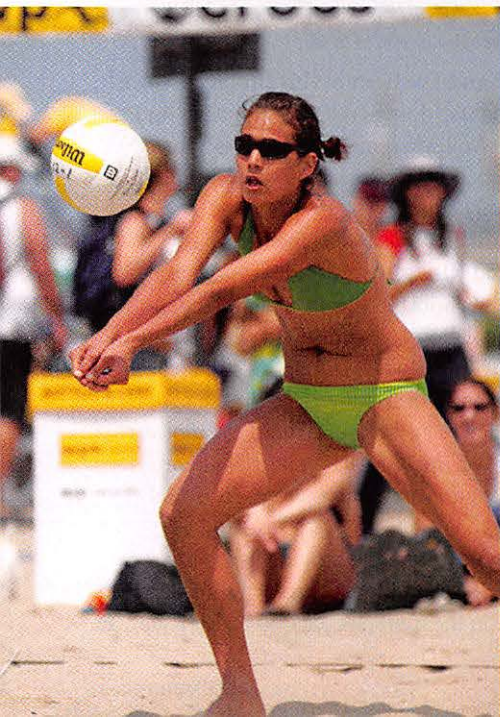
AVP Statistical Leaders

Wins: Kerri Walsh (14)
Earnings: Kerri Walsh (\$242,650)
Aces: Elaine Youngs (191)
Blocks: Kerri Walsh (221)
Digs: Holly McPeak (1,279)
Kill percentage: Kerri Walsh (.516)

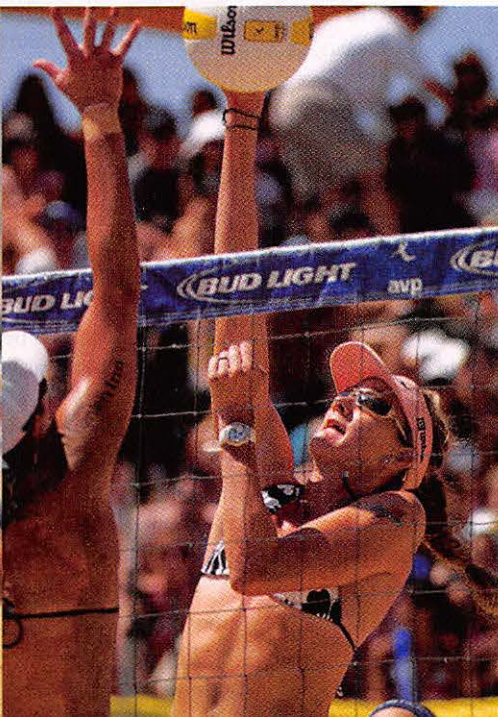


Misty May-Treanor, who won four AVP-sponsored season-ending awards, earned \$236,650 in prize earnings on the tour in 2006

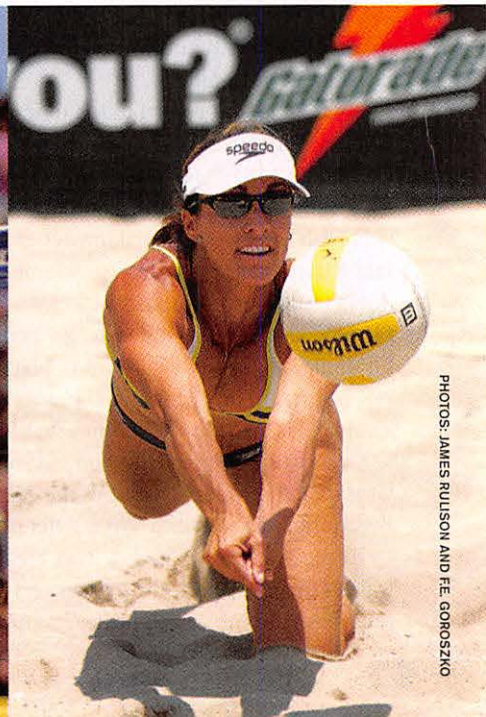
▼ Logan Tom



▼ Kerri Walsh



▼ Holly McPeak led the women's division in digs with 1,279.



Karch: 1 More Year

Beach legend says, health willing, 2007 will be his last AVP season.

By Mike Miazga

Back in 1997, three-time Olympic gold medalist Karch Kiraly wondered if his career was coming to a close.

"Coming back from my first shoulder surgery in 1997, it was an up and down struggle," said Kiraly. "I wondered if I was ever going to be able to get back to a high level of play again. The shoulder was performing inconsistently and I thought maybe that was my last year."

That was nearly a decade ago. And since then the winningest player in the history of professional beach volleyball has gone on to further establish himself as an unquestioned legend in the sport.

But the day volleyball fans have been dreading to hear may be right around the corner.

Kiraly, who has 148 career beach wins and \$3,172,461 in career beach earnings, told *Volleyball* just prior to press time that the 2007 season will be his final one on the AVP tour. Kiraly just completed his 28th professional beach season.

However, the 46-year-old Kiraly (who celebrated a birthday Nov. 3) said if his injured right knee does not progress sufficiently, he has already played in his last AVP event.

"Next year, if I play on the AVP tour, it will be the last year I compete on the AVP tour," said Kiraly, who was inducted into the Volleyball Hall of Fame in 2001.

Kiraly has battled a number of issues with his right knee over the last year. He injured the knee at the Sacramento tour stop this season, forcing him to undergo knee surgery that sidelined him for four tournaments.

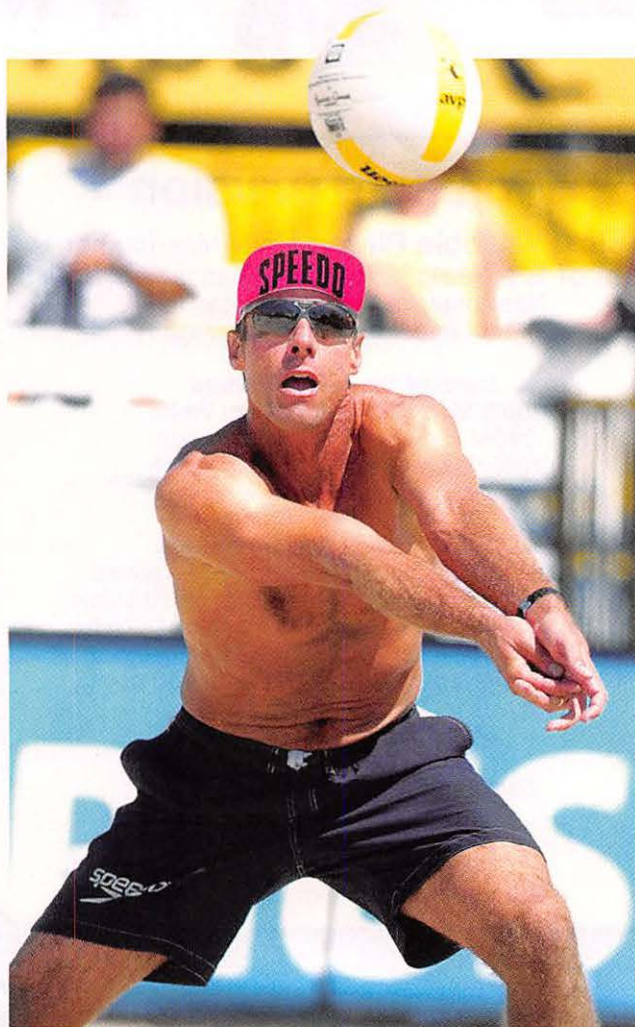
Kiraly played in a total of eight AVP events in 2006 with partner Larry Witt and earned \$12,513—his lowest earnings total in over a decade.

Kiraly made his return to the tour at the AVP Manhattan Beach Open, but again experienced problems with the knee. He said an MRI has revealed a deep bone bruise and tendonitis—afflictions that won't require further surgery.

"I wish my knee was making better progress than it has," said Kiraly. "It still gives me problems. I still feel pain. If it doesn't make progress, that makes it academic. There's no way I'll play on the tour if it doesn't get better. If it does get better, I'll think about whether I want to play, not in all 18 events, but maybe pick 10 or 11 for a final year on the tour—the most enjoyable places to play at, or ones that fit my schedule the best."

Kiraly said his knee felt strong when he played in the Manhattan Beach 6-Man event, but the AVP event in Manhattan Beach the next weekend was a different story.

"At the Manhattan Beach 6-Man I felt great," said Kiraly. "That was six or seven weeks (after surgery) and I was making great progress. At the Manhattan Beach Open on the second day is



Kiraly played in his 28th beach season in 2006.

when it really flared up and I've been having problems since."

Kiraly, who has been busy doing color commentary on Pac-10 Conference women's volleyball matches for Fox Sports Net along with Holly McPeak, says the possibility of retirement from the tour hasn't really sunk in yet.

"Either way, I would like my knee to feel better even if I don't play next year," said Kiraly, who also does AVP commentary for NBC and Fox Sports. "I want to be relatively pain-free. I want to be able to play with my boys (Kristian and Kory) go out and play with my wife (Janna), do some coaching or whatever else I plan to do to stay active in the sport. I definitely want to stay active in the sport. But if this doesn't change, I've already played my last AVP volleyball. I consider myself lucky to have gotten in so many more years than I thought I would."

Kiraly was voted the most influential name in the sport by *Volleyball* in the January 2006 issue and was recently voted as the most recognizable name in the sport (see Page 30 of this issue). ■

Congratulations

Hans Stolfus, Albert Hannemann
and

Team Picture Solutions

For Winning the
2006
Jayo Invitational

electric picture
solutions

JAYO INVITATIONAL



VOLLEYBALL
HELPING
KIDS

To find out how you
and your company
can play with the pros and help
children in need
visit www.jayoinvitational.com
or contact the Jayo Foundation
at 310.390.5690



Team Picture Solutions celebrates
championship point



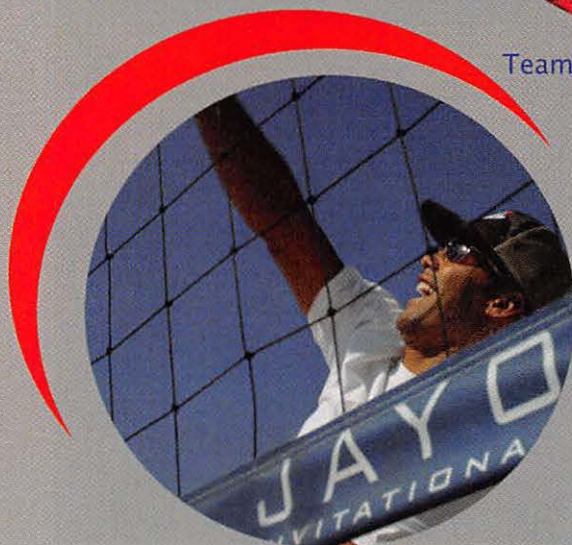
Actor Lance Barber at
the Cingular Wireless Kids Clinic



The Winners



Dain Blanton



Albert Hannemann
won his first Jayo this year



Holly McPeak
teaches kids at
the Cingular Wireless Kids
Clinic

Forging Her Own Path

Nana Meriwether has helped vault UCLA to the top of the women's college game this season.

By George Alfano

Nana Meriwether starts by following her family but usually ends up on her own road. The path has led her to be one of the top middle blockers in women's college volleyball.

The 6'1" UCLA senior started college at Duke University as a track standout. Her father, Dr. Delano Meriwether,

was the first African-American to graduate from Duke's medical school. He won the U.S. title in the 100-yard dash in 1971 while doing a medical residency. Her sister, Fortune Meriwether, ran track at Stanford before going to medical school.

"The fact that my father went to Duke motivated me to go there," said Meriwether, who played volleyball at Sidwell Friends, a Washington, D.C. prep school attended by, among others, the children of President Bill Clinton and Vice-President Al Gore. "Duke has a good program and it's a good school, but it wasn't the right place for me."

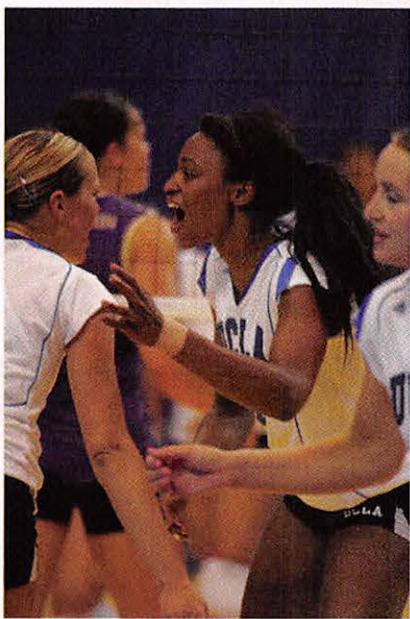
Meriwether had her own dream. She had attended private schools since kindergarten, but after spending a semester on the Durham, N.C. campus, she wanted to follow her heart. She also decided to major in political science over a path which would lead to medical school.

"Since the beginning of high school, I wanted to go to UCLA and play volleyball," said Meriwether, who had helped UCLA to a 21-1 record through late October.

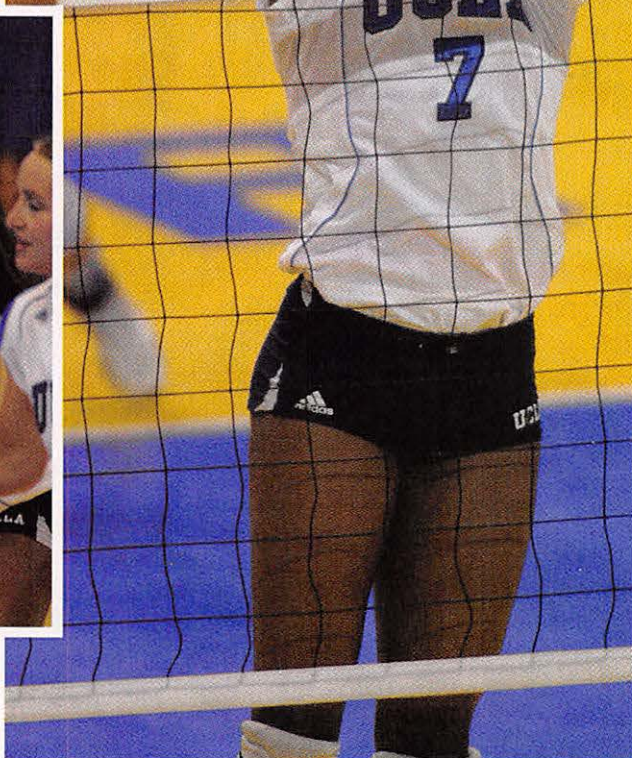
Her club coach contacted UCLA women's volleyball coach Andy Banachowski to see if the Bruins, who had recruited Meriwether in high school, were still interested. And the rest, as they say, was history.

"I was looking for a different experience and a big college," said Meriwether. "I wanted to go to a bigger school. UCLA is a great mix of academics and athletics. I also found myself more interested in team sports."

When she got to UCLA, she found she had a lot to learn,



Meriwether originally attended Duke University and ran track.



Meriwether helped UCLA jump out to a 21-1 start through late October.



JULIAN BAUM (WWW.BIGGIRLINTHEMIDDLE.COM)

Meriwether was leading the nation in hitting percentage (.486) and was ranked sixth nationally in blocks per game (1.72) through mid-October

but Banachowski saw that he had a serious student.

"I didn't realize there were so many techniques and complexities," said Meriwether. "The coaches broke things down and taught me a lot. They developed my game so I can see the court better and beat defenses."

Meriwether started out the 2005 season as one of several candidates for the starting middle blocker position at UCLA. She came on strong, earning All Pac-10 Conference honors last year. Meriwether had 17 blocks to lead the Bruins, who started the season slowly, to a five-game upset victory over national champion Washington, which was undefeated at the time. She followed that up by notching 16 blocks against Oregon.

"She's a smart kid and figures out how to use her athletic ability to get things done," said Banachowski. "I think the key to her improvement is just experience on the court."

Meriwether's physical skills are obvious. Nellie Spicer, UCLA's sophomore setter, saw that and, with some work, things started to ascend during last season.

"I never really played on a team with girls like Nana who touch 11-feet. Maybe you see that on Team USA," said Spicer, who said Meriwether is always dressed impressively, even in casual situations. "Once I was able to figure out how she works, how she likes her ball to be set, that's when we clicked."

And now Meriwether is playing a major role for the Bruins, who were serious Pac-10 Conference title contenders

through late October.

"Coming into my junior year, I had a new awareness of the court and the game itself," said Meriwether.

Although her grade-point average in her political science major is 3.9, Meriwether now thinks medical school might be a good idea even though it will require extra science courses before applying to medical school. She might seek a position as an assistant coach or graduate assistant while working on that.

"I never thought I would want to be a doctor, but this past year I found a new interest in science," said Meriwether, whose mother, Nomvimbi, earned a law degree before starting her own travel agency. "I guess it's in my blood." ■



Nana Quick Hitter

- Rides around UCLA's campus on a bicycle with a basket in the front
- Enjoys cooking and counts rosemary meatloaf and spinach mushroom quiche as her favorite dishes.
- A fan of the Academy Award-winning movie "Crash"

Opening Old Wounds

BYU men's coach Tom Peterson's resignation coincides with word the NCAA is again investigating the program.

By Josh Stephens

While men's college volleyball action usually doesn't begin until January, the abrupt departure of four-year head coach Tom Peterson and an NCAA investigation jolted the Brigham Young University men's volleyball team as classes began in early September.

Though coincidence links his resignation to allegations of NCAA violations, Peterson publicly offered no reason for leaving.

"It's probably not appropriate to comment on anything I'm not sure about," said Peterson, who compiled a 90-30 mark in four seasons and led BYU (Provo, Utah) to its third national title in 2004. Peterson also led Penn State to the 1994 NCAA title.

BYU athletic director Tom Holmoe said that philosophical differences led to Peterson's departure.

"Tom and I discussed some issues throughout last year," said Holmoe. "He and I did not see eye-to-eye, and he resigned."

The Cougars will wage their 2007 campaign under interim co-head coaches Ryan Millar and Shawn Patchell, both former BYU players and assistants under Peterson. Holmoe wants them to "stabilize the team" while the athletic department conducts a formal search for a permanent head coach.

Though Patchell and Millar intend to keep BYU in contention for the national title, the NCAA investigation—which Holmoe described as a "review"—casts an uncertain pall.

Typically secretive about its investigations, the NCAA would neither confirm nor deny that it is looking into BYU, and Holmoe said the NCAA does not reveal its allegations until it releases its initial report. He did, however, admit that "there have been secondary violations" that could lead to relatively mild sanctions.

"We're cooperating as best we can," said Holmoe. "Almost every university has secondary violations. They happen all the time, and universities address them."

The NCAA has concluded its research, but the findings "could take months" to emerge, according to Holmoe. At that point, BYU will have the opportunity to respond or simply rectify whatever problems the review uncovers.

Violations forced Hawaii and Lewis to vacate NCAA men's titles in 2002 and 2003, respectively, but Holmoe did not say that BYU's 2004 title or any players were in jeopardy. The prospect, though, concerns members of the men's volleyball community.

"(Men's volleyball) has two black marks against us," said UC Santa Barbara head coach Ken Preston. "I don't want to see the trifecta."

Two years ago Preston challenged the eligibility of two BYU



JAY METZGER

BYU coach Tom Peterson resigned after four years in Provo.

players—both of whom the NCAA exonerated. And ineligible foreign players toppled both Hawaii and Lewis.

"International recruiting is difficult," said Holmoe. "You really have to do a good job, but we will not step away from it."

BYU's current roster includes players from Brazil and Puerto Rico, as well as Cuban refugee Yosleyder Cala. Moreover, after taking two years off for missionary work, Cougar upperclassmen sometimes flirt with the NCAA's age limits.

Holmoe said BYU holds players to a threefold set of standards—"academic, athletic and cultural"—and expects students to uphold the values of the Church of Latter-day Saints. But Preston noted poor documentation can thwart even well-intentioned programs.

"I don't think BYU cheats," said Preston. "I think the BYU eligibility office is given the wrong information. Peterson could have been duped. I hope that's the case."

Despite BYU's past brushes with controversy, Preston and several other MPSF coaches indicated the MPSF rumor mill has been silent on both Peterson and BYU's current review.

Perhaps no one has gossiped less than the Cougars themselves, who are commencing preseason activities with every expectation that they will take the court with a full roster and clean record in January.

"We've been told there's no fault by any individual," said senior and likely team captain Russell Holmes. "But we don't know much, so we don't talk about it."

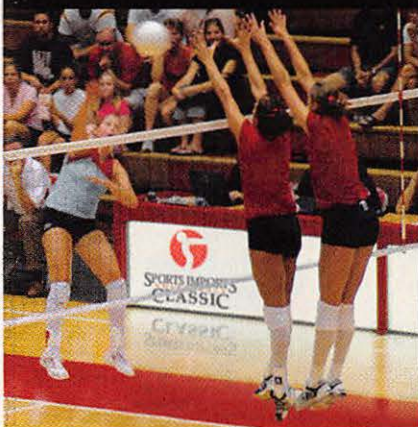
"We're not dwelling on (the review)," said Patchell. "It has no effect on the court. The guys have responded with maturity."

Regardless of the outcome of the review and this season's performance, BYU remains committed to fielding top-caliber teams.

"There's no feeling of trying to downgrade our volleyball program," said Holmoe. "We want to compete at the national level and be as good as we can be. And that includes this year." ■

There is only one Senoh net system.

And, it's the only choice of the NCAA® Championships, Olympics, AVCA and NIRSA.



"...we have had the same Senoh system for 24 years! I am so impressed with the quality of your product that if any coach asks my opinion, I always tell them to buy Senoh."

Marilyn Tobin
College AD, Volleyball Coach and Official
Montana Tech, MT

Coaches and athletic directors from more than 17,000 volleyball facilities agree that **Senoh** net systems are the most durable and easy-to-use on the market. And, they are 100% guaranteed.

Plus, **Sports Imports** customer reps are volleyball experts. It's all we do. So, whether you are constructing a new facility or converting from an inadequate system, Sports Imports provides the expert advice, customized solutions and support you need for the best value.

Call us to experience the value of **Senoh** net systems.

SENOH VALUE
for a lifetime of play.



SPORTS IMPORTS
your source for Senoh

800-556-3198
www.sportsimports.com



Danita Merlau

Danita Merlau is a 6'4" sophomore outside hitter for Purdue University. Merlau has played a major role in Purdue cementing itself in the

national rankings this season. The Boilermakers were 17-4 through late October. Merlau was leading the team in kills per game (3.86) and was tied for second on the team in service aces through 21 matches. Merlau, a 2005 All-Big Ten Conference Freshman Team selection, is a native of New Palestine, Ind., and was a standout performer at Indianapolis Cathedral High School where she was a *Volleyball* Fab 50 and Mizuno/*Volleyball* All-American selection her senior season.

Favorite athlete?

- **Brian Cardinal** (Purdue alum, current Memphis Grizzlies player). He always gives 110 percent and plays with so much heart.

Highlight of your athletic career?

Helping Purdue volleyball return to national prominence

One movie you must have in your collection?

"**Pirates of the Caribbean**"

One thing you would change about volleyball?

Tape-delayed TV broadcasts where half the game is "edited" out.



Favorite city to visit?

New York City. **Go Yankees!**

Pet peeve?

Slow walkers

Favorite childhood toy?

Tickle Me Elmo



When you grow up what would you like to be?

A big-time sports agent

Can you name all 18 of your relatives that have attended Purdue?

Yes, of course. But you'll have to trust me on this one.

Best birthday present?

My Aunt Danita's **chocolate chip cookies**



Nickname?

Odie. My dad said, "Welcome to the world Odie Opus!" moments after I was born and it has stuck ever since.

Colts or Pacers?

COLTS! Go Horse!



Worst habit?

Worrying about things I cannot control

Most embarrassing moment in a game?

When I was playing 14 Open and warming up for a tournament, I accidentally hit the opposing coach, Dave Shondell (current Purdue coach), in the head.

Phobia?

Ladybugs



Favorite old TV show?

"**Saved by the Bell**"



What would you never be caught dead wearing?

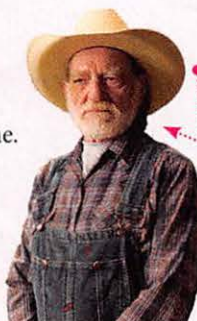
Cheetah print

If you could have superpowers, what would they be?

Freeze time. There never seems to be enough of it.

Most famous person you've met?

• **Willie Nelson.** I even got to sit in his tour bus, but I was too little to remember.



Favorite holiday?

I love coming downstairs **Christmas** morning and seeing the tree, the lights, the gifts and my whole family together.





Are you **passionate**?
Are you **dedicated**?
Are you **competitive**?
Are you a **member**?

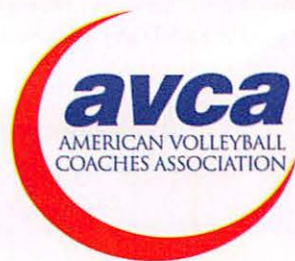
Join the **American Volleyball Coaches Association** today!

Here is what the AVCA can do for you:

- Receive in-depth analysis and advice on coaching techniques and strategies with **Coaching Volleyball magazine**
- Continue your professional development through AVCA **coaching education programs and seminars**
- Become involved in the various AVCA **recognition and awards programs** for coaches and athletes at both the college and high school levels
- Attend the **AVCA Annual Convention** and join the largest gathering of volleyball coaches and vendors in the nation
- Keep informed of the latest news, activities and events in the world of volleyball with the electronic newsletter **AVCA At the Net**
- High school and club coaches receive **Volleyball Ace Power Tips** offering the latest drills, techniques and strategies
- College coaches get division specific information from the electronic **CSTV/AVCA Facts on File** newsletter
- Make your voice heard through the AVCA with **representation on legislative and governance issues**
- And much more!

American Volleyball Coaches Association
Education. Recognition. Innovation.

For information on membership or convention registration, please visit www.avca.org or call 866.544.2822.



A SALUTE TO THE FUTURE

▼ Twin Trophies



The Planview (N.Y.) Old Bethpage JFK boys varsity team recently won its second consecutive Nassau County Conference I championship. Team members include: Jonathan Yarmeisch, Scott Fruchter, Evan Petrizzo, Andrew May, Danny Kim, Andrew Kump, Jordan Yarmeisch (captain), Michael Allogio, Moses Oh, Danny Panit, Justin Winiarz, Brian Shapp, Eric Spector, and Russi Villalta (head coach).

▼ Catch the Fever



Lauren Bledsoe is a 6'2" senior middle blocker-opposite at Mira Costa (Manhattan Beach, Calif.) High School who also plays for the TCA club. Bledsoe, who has committed to Florida, has been a Junior Olympics All-American selection as well as a Durango All-Star pick. "Lauren is a terrific athlete that can hit from anywhere on

the court," said TCA coach Neil Mason. "Her work ethic and passion is contagious."

▼ Lust for Life

Anna Eytchison is a 6'3" junior middle at Columbia (Ill.) High School who also plays for the St. Louis CYC club team. She led her club team to two consecutive Gateway Gold Division championships and a



runner-up finish at the 2006 Junior Olympics. She helped her high school team to the 2005 sectional and super-sectional titles as well as a second-place finish at the IHSA Class A state finals. She was named Columbia's most improved young player and was selected as the *Suburban Journal* Cardinal Athlete of the

Week. "Anna is a player who knows what it takes to be great," said coach Brielle Killip. "Her commitment and passion for improving her herself and her game are unbeatable. Her joy for life and her carefree spirit show both on and off the court. She exudes confidence and with that helps push her teammates along." Anna is also an honor roll student and student council member.

▼ Lover & Fighter

Alex Ayers is a 6'1" junior outside hitter at Marymount High School (Los Angeles, Calif.) who also plays for the TCA 18-1 club team. Alex has helped Marymount to the CIF Southern Section Division IV AA championship and was selected to the all-tournament team at the 2004 Junior Olympics. "Alex has a desire to win and has a competitive nature," said coach Greg Moss. "When she tore her ACL in 2005 at age 15 and could not play, she realized how much she loved and missed volleyball. She would fall asleep with a volleyball by her pillow and wrote several poems and a letter to her TCA team about her feelings. Her first match back was



September 2006 when Marymount played Mira Costa in a non-league match. Alex made the paper with 15 kills for her school." Alex also earned her women's "A" beach rating in August.

Nominations for Roll Call should be sent to: Roll Call, *Volleyball Magazine* 420 Boylston St., 5th Floor, Boston, MA 02116 or e-mailed to mmiazga@madavor.com. Photo and typed or printed player information must be included.

Recent College Commitments

NAME	HIGH SCHOOL	YEAR	COLLEGE CHOICE
Kendall Bateman	Mira Costa (Calif.)	Sr.	USC
Meryl Bender	Yorktown (Ind.)	Sr.	Ohio University
Lauren Bledsoe	Mira Costa (Calif.)	Sr.	Florida
► Kara Lynzee Brooks	Mount Dora (Fla.)	Sr.	Western Carolina
Kristy Iperlaan	Illiana Christian (Ill.)	Sr.	Olivet Nazarene
Ali Rook	Naperville No. (Ill.)	Sr.	Western Carolina
Tara Schmidt	Olathe South (Kan.)	Sr.	Olivet Nazarene
Beth Wildermuth	Santa Margarita (Calif.)	Jr.	Notre Dame
Connor Cherry	Cornelia Connelly (Calif.)	Sr.	Fordham
Erin Fleming	Lake Highland Prep (Fla.)	Sr.	Florida
► Maddie Owak	Chicago Christian (Ill.)	Sr.	Missouri-Rolla



VOLLEYBALL WANTS YOUR HELP

Send college commitments to *Volleyball* Editor in Chief Mike Miazga at mmiazga@madavor.com. Please be sure to include a high resolution color headshot of the player. I'm especially looking for boys' college commitments.

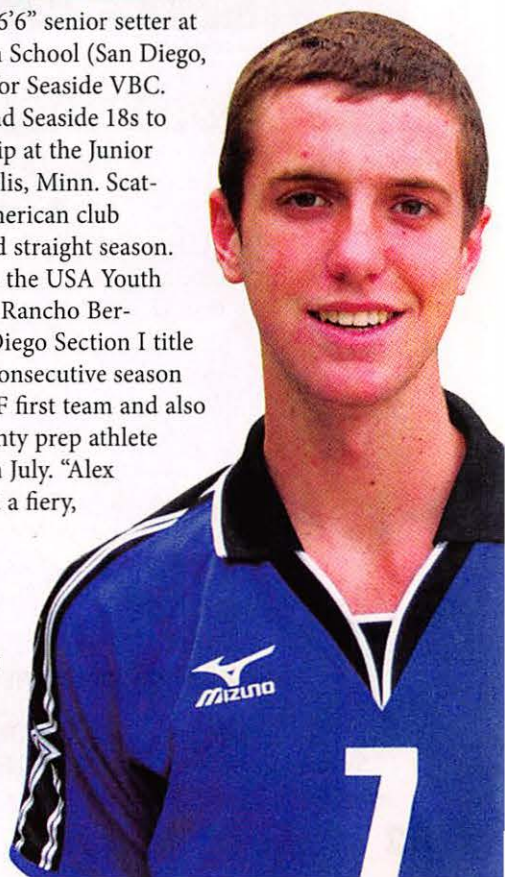
▼ Let it Loose

Kristin Raterman is a 5'9" senior outside hitter at Fort Loramie (Ohio) High School who also plays for Team Atlantis VBC. A three-year varsity starter, she was a 2005 Shelby County League honorable mention selection. She is also third on the career kills list at Fort Loramie. "Kristin leads by example and is an emotional supporter for the team," said coach Kirby King. "Her personality keeps everyone loose, even in pressure situations."



Always A Good Decision ▼

Alex Scattareggia is a 6'6" senior setter at Rancho Bernardo High School (San Diego, Calif.) who also plays for Seaside VBC. This year, he helped lead Seaside 18s to a national championship at the Junior Olympics in Minneapolis, Minn. Scattareggia was an All-American club selection for the second straight season. He was also selected to the USA Youth A2 team. Alex also led Rancho Bernardo to the CIF San Diego Section I title match for the second consecutive season and was named All-CIF first team and also earned San Diego County prep athlete of the month honors in July. "Alex has a great passion and a fiery, competitive nature for the game," said coach Rachael Grant. "His elite-level decision making style and court presence makes him one of the best high school and club setters in the country."



Club Scene • High School

2006 Mother McAuley Nike Challenge

Mira Costa proved it's the No. 1 team in the country after a championship showing in Chicago.

Mira Costa (Manhattan Beach, Calif.) and Assumption (Louisville, Ky.) high schools have played a little game of role reversal this season.

Assumption downed Mira Costa twice in 2005 to cement itself as the consensus top high school team.

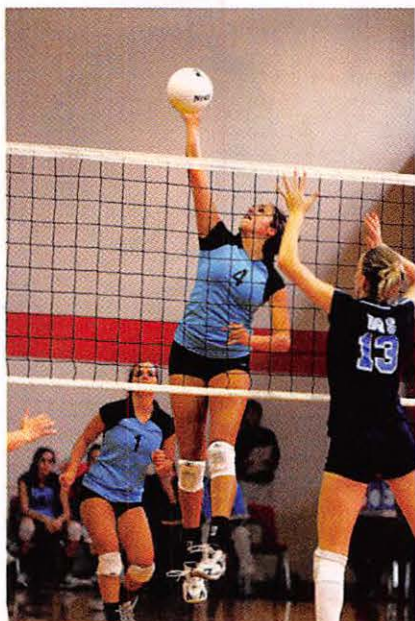
Fast forward a year and Mira Costa has

turned the tables beating Assumption at both the Durango Classic in Las Vegas and at the recent Mother McAuley Nike Challenge in Chicago.

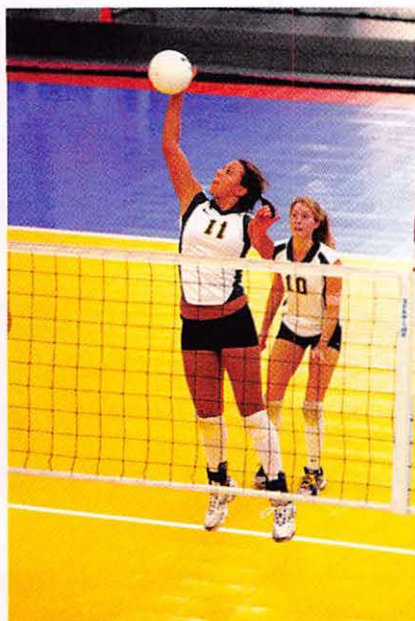
Mira Costa, behind the outstanding offensive punch of seniors Alix Klineman and Lauren Bledsoe, swept Assumption, 25-23, 25-19, to take the

Nike crown and improve to 16-0 on the season.

Klineman, the top recruit in the Class of 2007 who was still undecided about her college plans at press time, led the way with 13 kills. Bledsoe, headed to the University of Florida next season, added 10 kills in the title match. ■



Joliet Academy's Nicole Kump



Crystal Lake South's Kristin Tuma



Mira Costa's Kendall Bateman

2006 NIKE CHALLENGE

Gold Division Quarterfinals

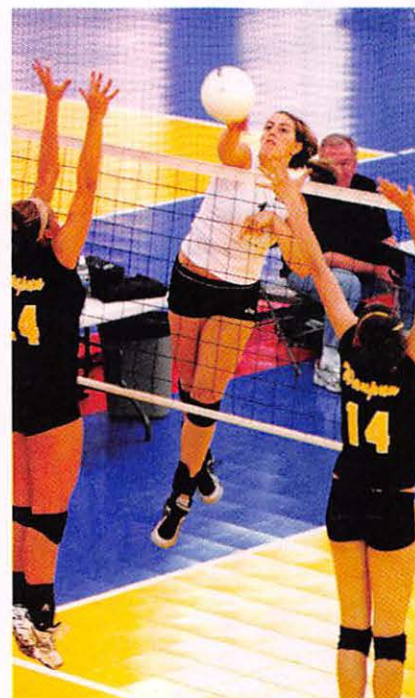
- Mira Costa (Calif.) d. Sacred Heart (Ken.) 25-19, 25-17
- La Costa Canyon (Calif.) d. Bellevue West (Neb.) 22-25, 25-18, 25-19
- St. Francis (Ill.) d. Mother McAuley (Ill.) 25-17, 25-16
- Assumption (Ken.) d. Marist (Ill.) 25-13, 25-13
- Bellevue West d. Sacred Heart 25-23, 21-25, 25-20
- Marist d. Mother McAuley 19-25, 25-17, 25-20
- Mira Costa d. LaCosta Canyon 25-14, 25-11
- Assumption d. St. Francis 25-19, 25-18
- Mother McAuley d. Sacred Heart 25-22, 25-21
- Bellevue West d. Marist 25-15, 25-14
- La Costa Canyon d. St. Francis
- Mira Costa d. Assumption 25-23, 25-19

Silver Division

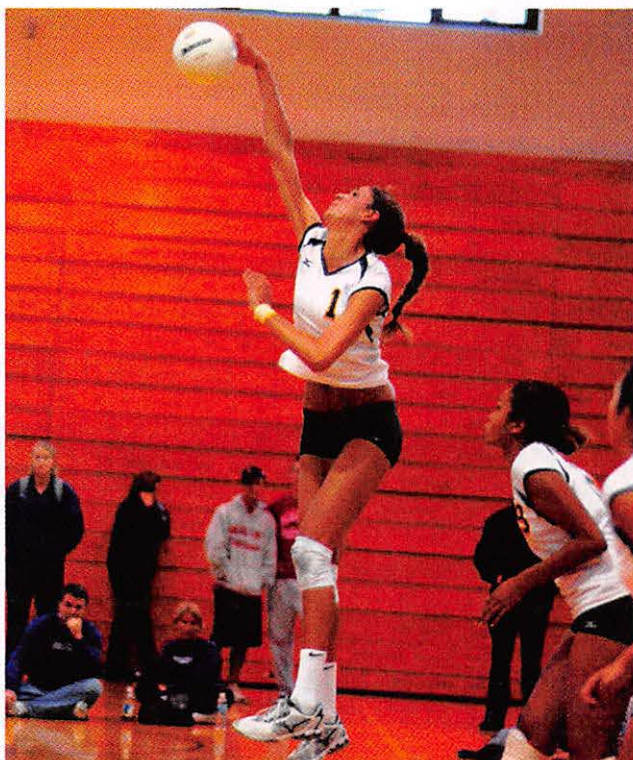
- Joliet Catholic (Ill.) d. Wahlert (Iowa) 25-22, 25-23 (title)

Bronze Division

- Downers Grove North (Ill.) d. McGill Toolen (Ala.) 23-25, 25-22, 25-22 (title)



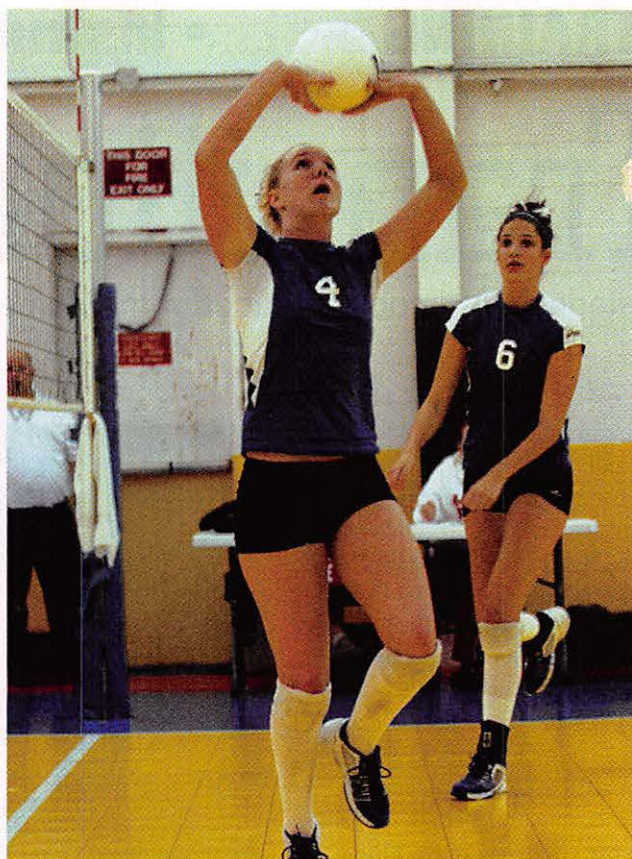
Louisville Assumption's Carrie Minogue



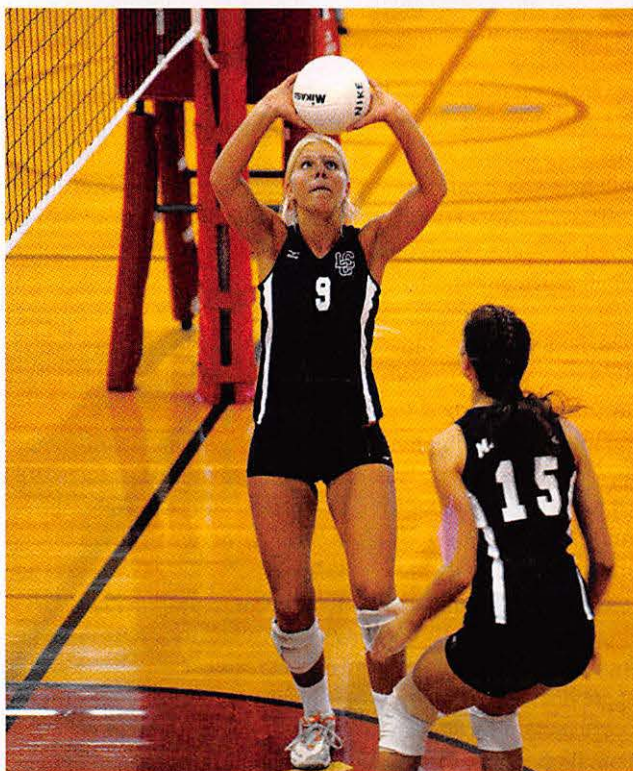
Mira Costa's Alix Klineman

ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM

Alix Klineman (Mira Costa)
 Kaitlynn James (Assumption)
 Jace Williams (La Costa Canyon)
 Alyssa Rio (St. Francis)
 Brooke Delano (Bellevue West)



Wheaton St. Francis' Michelle Kocher



La Costa Canyon's Jazmin Machado



Marist's Claire Smalzer

ALL PHOTOS BY PAUL WHITEHOUSE (WWW.ARCIFERRETUS)

Transition Drills

Mastering this important facet of the game will have you on the fast track to success.

By Mike Wall

If you walked into several different gyms and observed several different volleyball teams, chances are many would have dramatically different training styles and philosophies.

However, there is a notion that most coaches will agree upon. If you want to be a great team you must be good at serving and passing the ball.

And in order to win lots of matches you must be able to win the outside hitters battle with players that are good at terminating balls in transition. If you can effectively convert these transition opportunities into points, you will dramatically increase your chances of winning.

In the 2004 Olympics, the top five men's teams were very similar in every category except transition. Brazil was the best team in transition and went on to win the gold medal.

In the 2001 NCAA men's title match, BYU's outsides hit .429 (35 kills, 8 errors, 63 attempts), while UCLA's hit .115 (19 kills, 13 errors, 52 attempts). UCLA hit .692 out of the middle (30 kills, 3 errors, 39 attempts) compared to BYU's .250 (11 kills, 5 errors, 24 attempts).

As you can see, BYU lost the battle in the middle, but won the battle between the outside hitters. BYU won the match in three games. Even though UCLA was on fire in the middle, you can only set your quicks on a good pass. When digging hard-driven balls in transition, often times the only option is to set your outside hitters. So, if you win the transition battle, odds are you have won the outside hitters battle simply because they will be the ones getting most of those sets.

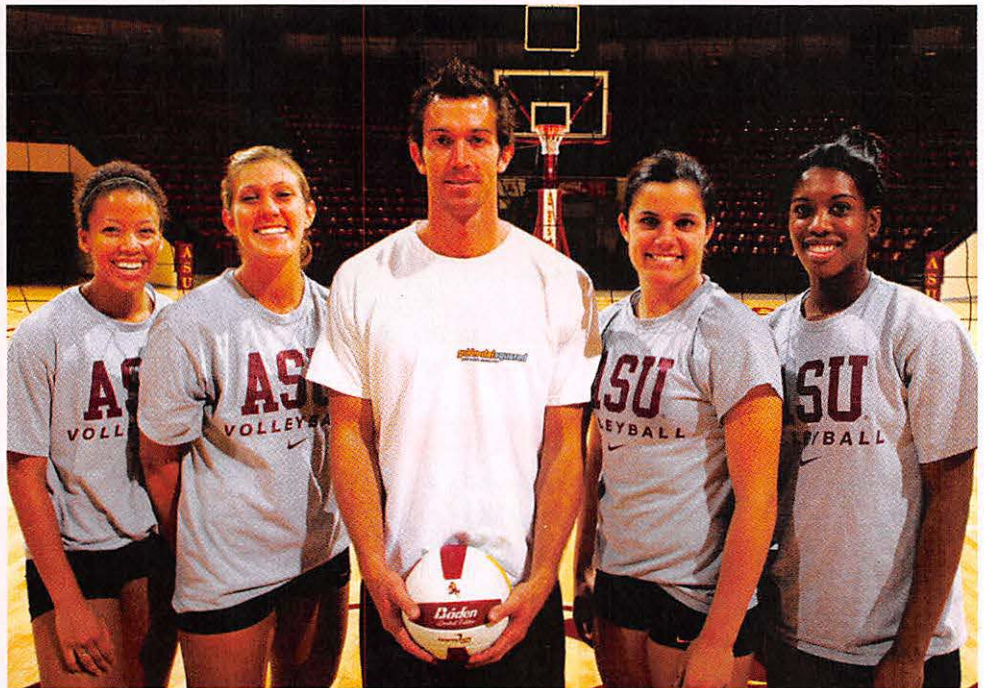
With that said, why do so many coaches play their best hitters in the middle? It makes a lot of sense to have your most athletic and talented terminators in a position to get set a lot of balls (outside or right side).

A common belief is women's volleyball has longer rallies than men's volleyball. If this is true, a larger premium is placed on terminating balls in transition.

If you want to be great in transition you need to know several important statistics.

What percent of the time is your team getting the ball back?

When you do get the ball back, was it from a touch off the block, a dig, or a free ball?



From left, Arizona State players Nina Reeves, Margie Giordano, Nicole Morton and Tierra Burnley helped Mike demonstrate these drills.

Once you get the ball back, where is your setter setting the ball?

Lastly, find out where you are most efficient hitting in transition. We like to have transition statistics along with total statistics. This will help you train your athletes more effectively in transition.

The majority of points scored in a match come from scoring points in transition (converts). Errors, blocks and aces comprise a smaller percent of total points.

If you look at the box score from the 2005 NCAA women's title match between Washington and Nebraska, you will see both teams were very similar in both blocks (Nebraska held a 14-13 edge) and aces (both teams had 4 each).

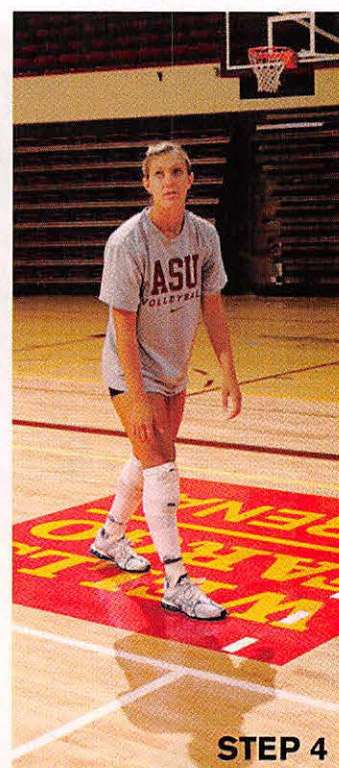
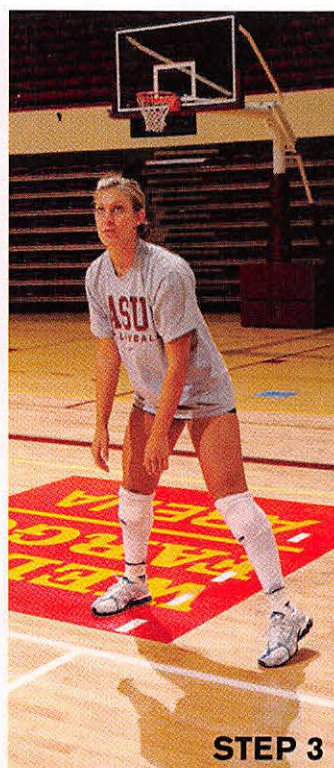
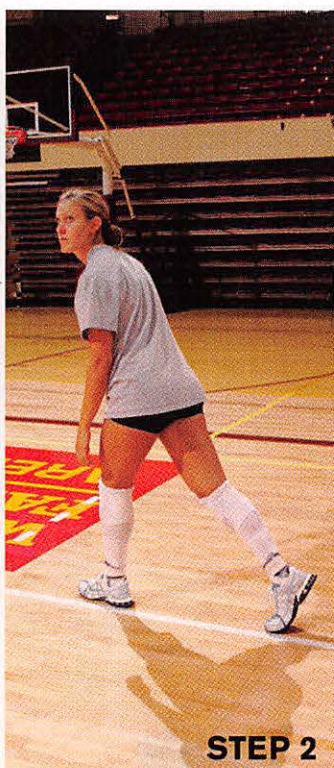
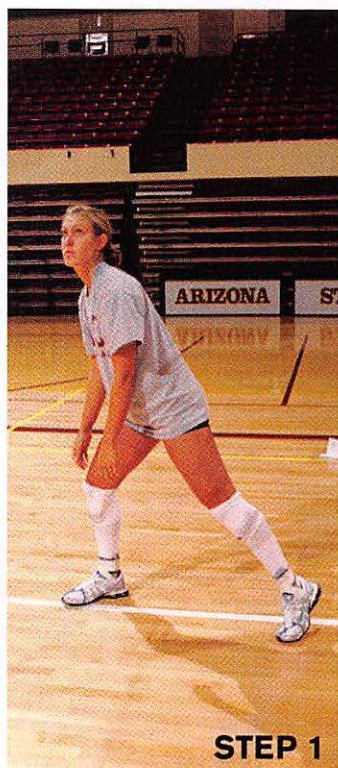
However, Washington had 10 more digs than Nebraska and 8 less service errors. If Washington had 10 more digs (creates), that's 10 more opportunities to score in transition than Nebraska had. Add those 10 opportunities to the 8 service errors by Nebraska and you get a pretty big point gap.

How do you train your team to be good in transition? Getting into a good hitting position after blocking requires precise footwork and speed. This move is not slow or passive. It's a fast, aggressive move. We like our blockers to "come down running."

We believe turning and running is the best way to get into position. It's faster and more efficient than backing up (unless you are dealing with a free ball).

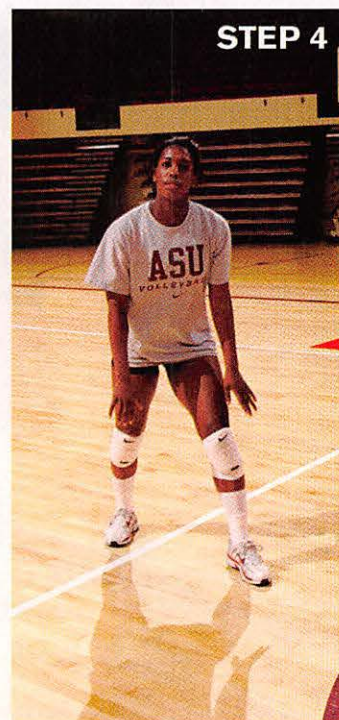
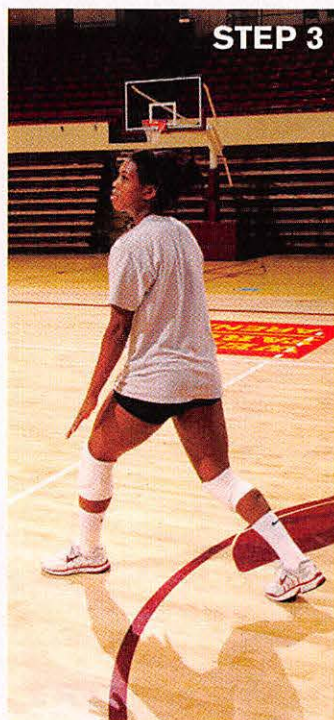
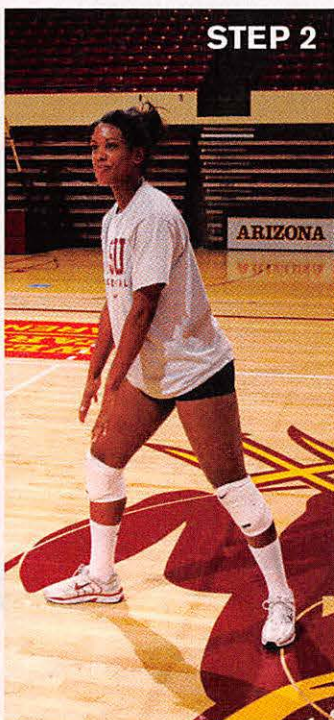
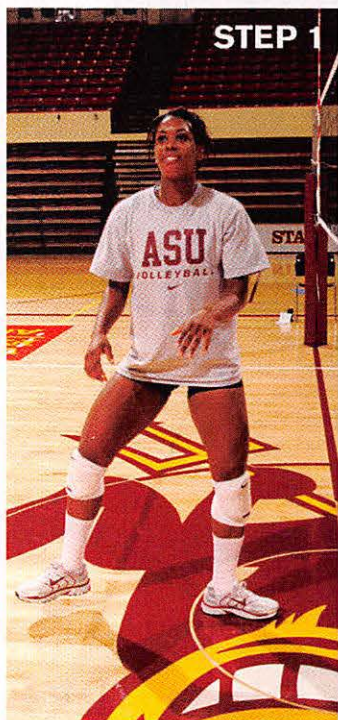
1 OUTSIDE HITTER TRANSITION FOOTWORK ::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::

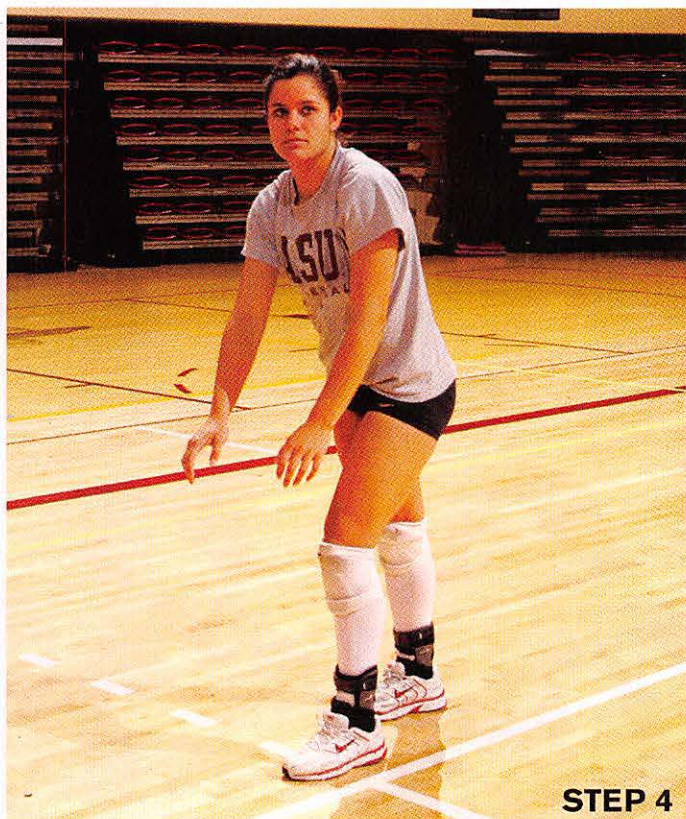
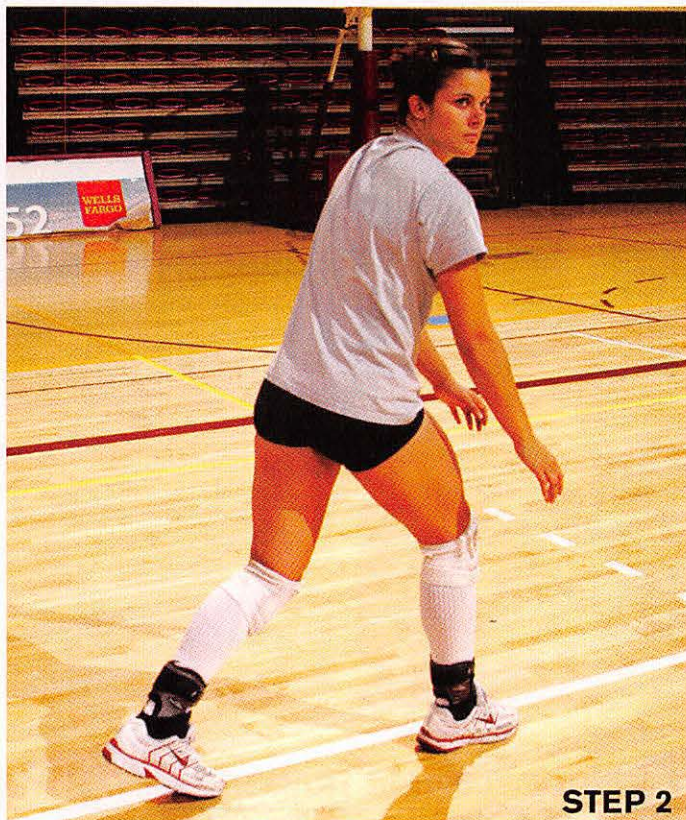
- Four steps off and four steps back (when time permits)
- Three steps off and three steps back (when in a hurry)

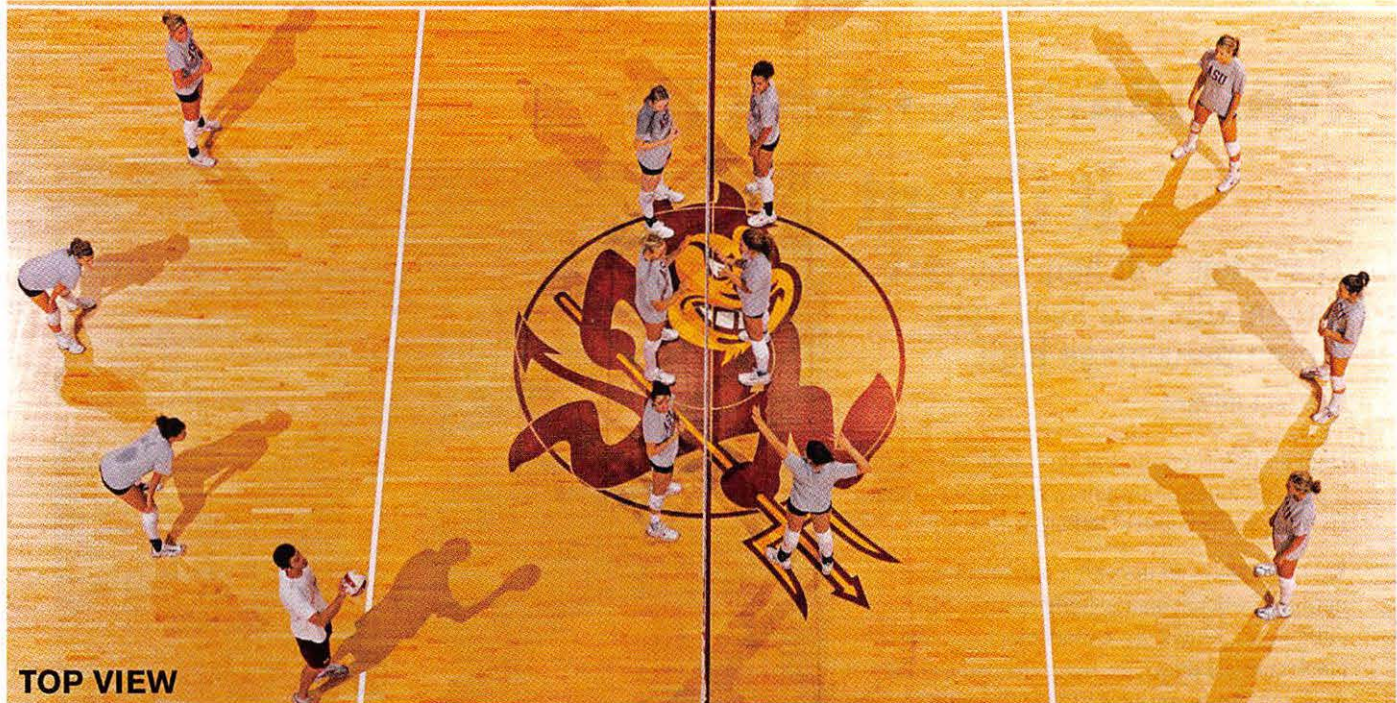


2 MIDDLE BLOCKER TRANSITION FOOTWORK ::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::

- When blocking left—three off and three back
- When blocking middle—three off and three back (open to right)
- When blocking right—four off and three back

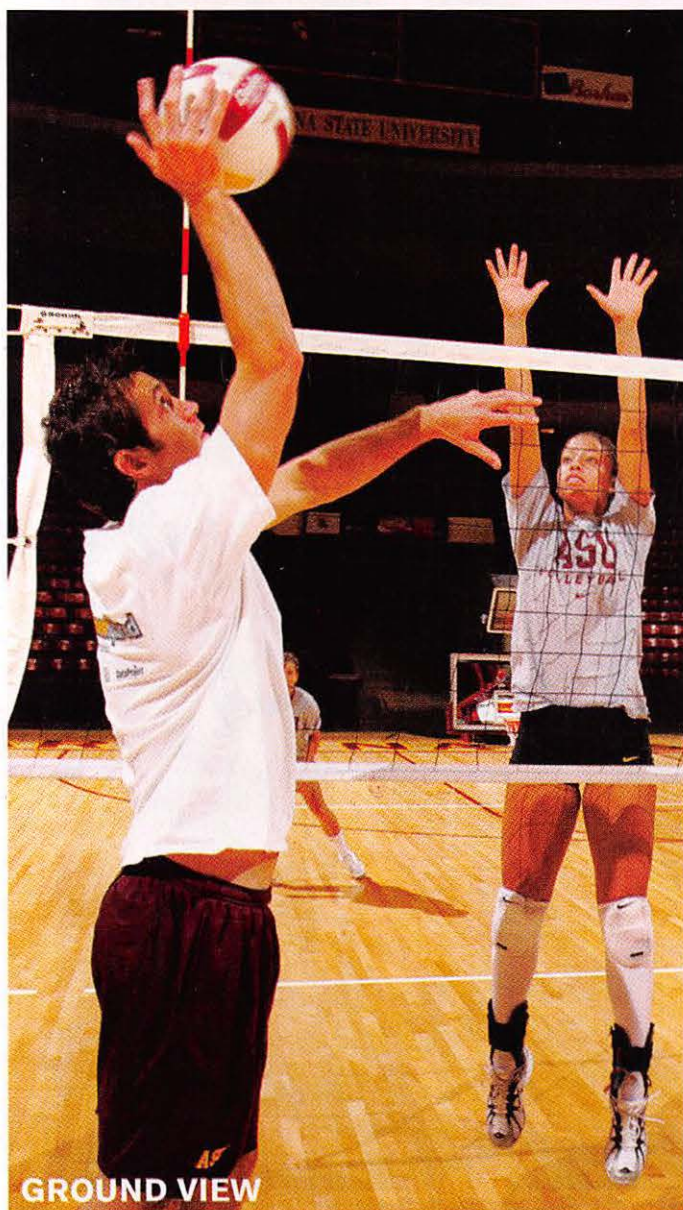






TOP VIEW

ALL PHOTOS BY NICK DOAN



GROUND VIEW

4 THE TRANSITION WASH:.....

To practice these patterns and to work on transition in general, we like this 6-on-6 drill.

A coach on one side of the court slaps a ball that is being held. Two front-row blockers make a blocking move and the coach hits a soft roll shot to Team A. They dig, transition, set and spike the ball to Team B. Team B blocks, digs and transitions. When the rally eventually terminates, another ball is immediately bounced to the team that loses the rally and they transition attack.

Use wash scoring (a team must win both rallies to score a point). After these two events, the coach moves to the other side of the court, slaps a ball and hits a soft roll shot to Team B. They transition and attack at Team A and the process repeats. The coach should work around the court. That is, first the left side of Team A, then the left side of Team B, then the right side of Team A, then the right side of Team B. With wash scoring, it is usually best to play to 2 points to win a rotation. We use the following rotation sequence in order to maximize front-back row mixing: 3 6 1 4 5 2 vs. 2 5 1 4 6 3. However, for simplicity you can also rotate front row-back row after a rotation has been won.



ABOUT MIKE WALL

Mike Wall is an assistant coach for the Arizona State women's team. Mike has also coached at Utah, Saint Mary's and UC San Diego. Mike, who won two NCAA titles as a player at BYU and still holds eight program records, also did a stint with the U.S. Men's National Team and has played professionally overseas. Mike is also the president of Gold Medal Squared West,

an organization that runs volleyball camps and clinics using some of the game's legendary names as instructors. For more information, visit www.goldmedalsquared.com.

Make It Count

These tips will help you rack up the kills and keep your hitting percentage high.

By Brent Hilliard

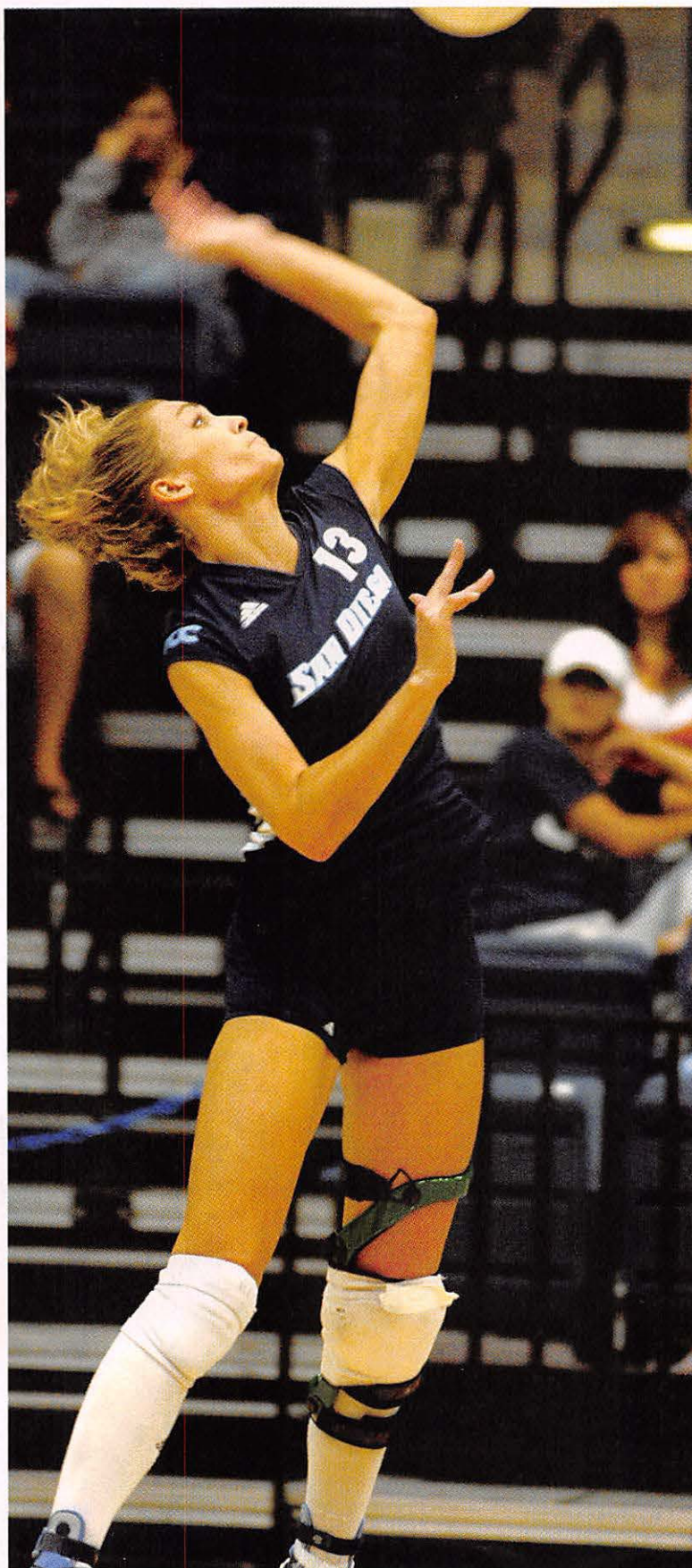
High kill totals on the stat sheet look even better if they are followed by a high hitting percentage. Here are some pointers to help with that.

1. Don't always go up with a preconceived notion of where you are going to hit the ball. Oftentimes, hitters see a small block or a big block and feel they have to hit the ball a certain direction. From my experience it is better to go up with the idea of being aggressive and hitting where the set takes you.
2. Learn to hit where the set is placed. If the set is inside, learn to hit a high, line shot. If the set is perfect, learn to hit in the opposite direction of your approach line. If the ball is set off the net, try to mix in a high and flat shot that can go off the block, as opposed to the block that goes right back into your face.
3. Lastly, learn to mix in the roll shot, tip and joust into your repertoire. So many hitters watch their hitting percentage plummet because they can't deal with the tight set. I always tell our attackers every set has an opportunity to be scored upon. Don't panic on bad sets. Simply change your approach line to set up your newly improved shots.



Brent Hilliard is the interim head women's volleyball coach at the University of San Diego. Hilliard, who has been at San Diego for six seasons, is regarded as one of the greatest men's collegiate volley-

ball players in the history of the sport. A 1993 graduate of Long Beach State, Hilliard was named the college player of the year in 1992 and was a four-time All-American selection. He led Long Beach to the 1991 NCAA crown. A 1992 Olympian, Hilliard still holds the NCAA men's record for career kills (3,034).



Kristen Carlson is one of the top offensive threats for San Diego.

PHOTOS BY BROCK SCOTT



We've got the ball. You bring the game!



NFHS

SV-5WS

SV-5WSC

Sensi-Tec™ Composite Leather Volleyball



It's not too good to be true! Our amazing Sensi-Tec™ Composite Leather Volleyball is now available in 52 bold color combinations including our NFHS™ approved, white SV-5WS. All models feature our patented Loose Bladder Construction Method (LBC™). At Tachikara, we believe that...

Variety is the spike of life!

www.tachikara.com

©TACHIKARA IH-0610

Indoor Notebook by Mike Miazga

A spin around the international and college scenes

World Championships On Tap



Heather Bown (hitting) and Team USA are part of the 2006 FIVB World Championships field.

Team USA finished second at the 2002 World Championships.

The U.S. Men's National Team, currently ranked No. 5 in the world, is in Pool C with the Czech Republic (No. 27 in the world), Italy (No. 2), Venezuela (No. 13), Bulgaria (No. 18) and Iran (No. 26).

Team USA begins play Nov. 17 against Venezuela and continues with matches against Bulgaria (Nov. 18), the Czech Republic (Nov. 19), Italy (Nov. 21) and Iran (Nov. 22). Team USA finished ninth at the 2002 World Championships.

At the World Championships, the top two teams in each pool and the top four third-ranked teams advance to the next round.

Calderon On Survivor



Former Long Beach State men's player J.P. Calderon was a contestant on this year's "Survivor" television series.

show, was a member of the show's Hispanic tribe. The current season of the cult hit came under fire early in the show due to the contestants being grouped together by ethnicity.

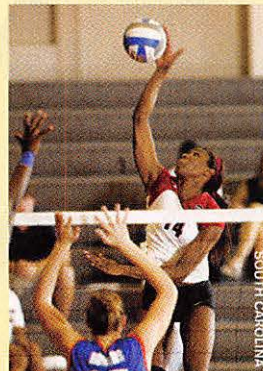
Calderon, who is the co-director of the Mizuno Long Beach club, was surprised by his ouster from the show.

The U.S. men's and women's national teams will be plenty busy over the next month at the 2006 FIVB World Championships in Japan.

The U.S. Women's National Team, ranked No. 6 in the world, started play in late October in Kobe. Team USA was in Pool C with The Netherlands (tied for 16th in the world), Brazil (No. 2), Puerto Rico (No. 12), Kazakhstan (tied for 16th) and

"Wow. Holy crap, you guys outwitted me big-time," said Calderon to his teammates after show host Jeff Probst gave him the news that he had been eliminated. "This is something I never saw coming. There are no hard feelings. That's the way the game is played, and man, they really pulled one over on me. You definitely can't trust anyone in this game. There's no way."

Name You Should Know



South Carolina's Shonda Cole

South Carolina senior outside hitter **Shonda Cole** recently earned her second Southeastern Conference Player of the Week honor in a three-week span. Through early October, Cole led the nation with six 30-kill matches. Through Oct. 15, Cole was averaging 5.83 kills per game (second in the nation) and was hitting at a .308 clip. Cole had taken 1,082 swings (the next highest total on the team was 611).

Moss Off To Hot Start



Former California prep standout **Rachael Moss** has made an immediate impact for the Duke women's team. Moss was recently named the Atlantic Coast Conference Player of the Week. Moss had career highs of 19 kills and 25 digs in a win against Virginia and had 17 kills and 10 digs in a victory over Virginia Tech to earn the award. Duke was 18-2 overall and a perfect

11-0 in ACC action through late October. Moss was second on the team in kills per game (3.87) through 20 matches.

Packing Them In

A total of 11 NCAA Division I women's teams were averaging at least 2,000 fans a match or more through early October. That list included Hawaii (7,252), Nebraska (4,144), Wisconsin (4,000, pictured above), Minnesota (3,594), Florida (2,511), Penn State (2,408), BYU (2,380), Creighton (2,243), Wichita State (2,106), Texas A & M (2,017) and Missouri (2,015).



GREG ANDERSON



Hawaii Streak Over

Hawaii's 114-match Western Athletic Conference (WAC) winning streak was brought to a halt in a 3-2 loss at **New Mexico State** at Las Cruces High School in October. New Mexico State, which improved to 21-1 after the win, won the match, 22-30, 30-28, 27-30, 30-24, 15-13. New Mexico State senior **Alice Borden** (pictured, left) was named

the WAC Player of the Week after totaling 41 kills and seven aces in victories against Northern Arizona, Hawaii and New Mexico.

Service Please!



Villanova's Jenna Link

Villanova senior **Jenna Link** tied an NCAA record for most consecutive points served in a recent match against DePaul. Link, who transferred from Alabama-Birmingham, opened the third game by serving the first 18 points of the game. During the run, she had three aces. Link tied Washington setter Courtney Thompson's record.

A Grand Time

Hillsdale (Mich.) College officially threw its hat in the NCAA Division II contender's ring by sweeping defending Division II champion and former national No. 1 Grand Valley



Hillsdale's Taryn Rudland

State in a recent match.

Hillsdale improved to 21-0 with the win (it was the program's 16th 3-0 sweep of the season).

Melissa Bartlett (16 kills on 32 swings), **Becky Grzegarski** (12 kills, .417) and **Taryn Rudland** (11 kills, no errors, 18 swings) led the way in the Grand Valley State sweep. The team was 19-12 in 2005. Rudland was named to the All-GLIAC squad last season.

ESPNU To Provide Postseason Coverage

ESPNU will be the exclusive home this season for all



key NCAA women's Division I volleyball postseason action.

ESPNU will provide exclusive coverage of all four NCAA regional championship matches on Dec. 9 (Florida, Hawaii, Texas and Washington are the regional hosts this year).

ESPNU will also air live coverage of this year's NCAA national championship from the sold-out Qwest Center in Omaha, Neb. The finals will be played Thursday, Dec. 14 and Saturday, Dec. 16. The finals sold out 11 months in advance.

ESPNEWS will broadcast the NCAA tournament selections on Sunday, Nov. 26 at 2:30 p.m. (Eastern).

molten® Volleyball

WOMEN'S COLLEGE TOP 20

as of October 23, 2006

RANK	TEAM	RECORD
1	Nebraska	18-0
2	Penn State	21-0
3	Stanford	17-2
4	Washington	17-3
5	UCLA	21-1
6	Florida	18-2
7	USC	18-2
8	Utah	19-2
9	Texas	13-5
10	BYU	18-2
11	Minnesota	15-5
12	Wisconsin	15-5
13	Cal	15-5
14	Purdue	17-4
15	Hawaii	15-5
16	LSU	17-3
17	Cal Poly	16-4
18	San Diego	17-4
19	Santa Clara	14-5
20	New Mexico State	24-1

Visit *Volleyball* on the web at www.volleyballmag.com

Visit Molten on the web at www.moltenusa.com

Volleyball Snapshots

Star in the Making

Rachel Fattal is a 12-year-old multi-sport athlete from Seal Beach, Calif. In 2006, Rachel qualified to participate in five Junior Olympics, including volleyball, water polo and swimming.



In volleyball, Rachel competed in the Junior Olympics in Atlanta in the 12s division (18th place finish for Seal Beach VBC) and

was also involved in the AAU Beach Junior Olympics in the 14s division. This photo shows Rachel and her partner Tiffany Morales with some AVP superstars. Pictured, from left are: Angie Akers, Brittany Hochevar, Tiffany, Misty May-Treanor, Rachel and Kerri Walsh.

The Fast Lane



The Desert Mountain High School (Scottsdale, Ariz.) varsity volleyball team posed on NASCAR driver Billy Kann's car. Kann's daughter,

Lyz, plays for Desert Mountain. The team was 28-12 and 8-1 in region action through mid-October. Photo by Nick Doan.

On The Tube

AVCA/CSTV Match of the Week

- Nov. 12: Houston at SMU, 6 p.m.
- Nov. 12: UCLA at Stanford, 8 p.m.
- Nov. 19: Big East Championship, 4 p.m.
- Nov. 19: Conference USA Championship, 6 p.m.
- Nov. 24: WAC Championship, 10:30 p.m.
- Nov. 25: Mountain West Championship, 11 p.m.
- Nov. 26: NJCAA Division I Championship, 6 p.m.
- Nov. 26: Texas at Nebraska, 8 p.m.

All dates are airdates. Matches shown on a delayed basis by Fox Sports Net. Please check local listings.

Jerritt Elliott and his Texas squad will ▶ face 2005 NCAA national runner-up Nebraska Nov. 26 on CSTV.



LeverKnot®

The New Standard in Net Tension

VB-6 - Set of 6 (includes rope)

VB-BR2C - Set of 2 (includes covers)

Create a consistent surface you can play off of during practice and competition.

Fast
Easy To Use
Strong

Stays Tight
Won't Stretch
Won't Tangle or
Break Like Velcro
Indoor or Outdoor

Free Sample

For a limited time, log on to
www.leverknot.com/trial

and we'll send you a free LeverKnot side net tensioner. (a \$5.00 value)

Enter Offer Code: **B9A3T**

The LeverKnot is made in the U.S.A. and protected under U.S. Patent Number 6,839,942.

"LeverKnots are such a simple product but absolutely essential to quick and efficient net set-up. This is truly an ingenious system and I will never tie a knot again!"

"We replaced our Velcro® straps, and I couldn't be more pleased. The LeverKnot is easier to fasten, doesn't tangle, and saves time in putting our nets up for practices and match play."

"I haven't had to adjust the LeverKnots during the league nor have I had to do it during camp. ...we haven't touched them and they're still very tight."

"Kids 12 years old, and 18-year-olds, and all of them have been able to use it... some of them don't have the strength to pull and tie at the same time, but with the LeverKnot, they just slip the rope on there and pull -- it's definitely much easier."

ADVERTISER INDEX

IBC ACTIVE ANKLE
www.activeankle.com

49 AVCA
www.avca.org

01 BAUERFEIND
www.bauerfeindusa.com

62 LEVER KNOT
www.leverknot.com

BC MIKASA
www.mikassasports.com

IFC MOLTEN
www.moltenusa.com

63 POWERBALL NET
www.powerballnet.com

37 SPORTS IMPORTS
www.sportsimports.com

43 JAYO INVITATIONAL
www.jayoinvitational.com

47 SPORTS IMPORTS
www.sportsimports.com

59 TACHIKARA
www.tachikara.com

63 VOLLEYBALL TUTOR
www.sportsmachines.com

12 VOLLEYBALLNET.NET
www.volleyballnet.net

09 VOLLEYBALL USA
www.volleyballusa.com

11 VOLLEYHUT
www.volleyhut.com

19 VOLLEYBALL FESTIVAL
www.volleyball-festival.com

13 VOLLEYBALL MARKET
www.volleyballmarket.com

07 WILSON
www.wilson.com

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP Volleyball Magazine 2006

1. Publication Title: Volleyball. 2. Publication Number: 1058-4668. 3. Filing Date: September 28, 2006. 4. Issue Frequency: Monthly. 5. Number of Issues Published Annually: 12. 6. Annual Subscription Price: \$24.97 US, \$35 CAN, \$49 International. 7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication: Madavor Media LLC, 420 Boylston St., 5th Floor, Boston, MA 02116. 8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher: Madavor Media LLC, 420 Boylston St., 5th Floor, Boston, MA 02116. 9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Address of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor: Publisher: Susan Fitzgerald, same as headquarters. Editor: Mike Mizga, same as headquarters. Managing Editor: n/a. 10. Owner: Madavor Media LLC, PO Box 1144, Boston, MA 02117. 11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities: Zipin Group, LLC, PO Box 1144, Boston, MA 02117. 12. N/A. 13. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: September 2006. 14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: September 2006. 15. Extent and Nature of Circulation:

Total # of Copies	Average 12 Months	Single Issue J/A 06
23,691	23,691	21,347

Paid &/or Requested Circulation:

	17,536	15,538
Paid/Requested Outside County Mail Subscriptions (3541)		
Paid/Requested Inside County Mail Subscriptions (3541)		
Sales through Dealers & Carriers (HWA)	1,629	1,096
Other Classes Mailed through USPS		
Total Paid/Requested Circ:	19,165	16,634
Free Distribution by Mail: Outside County (as stated in form 3541)		
In-County (as stated in form 3541)		
Other classes Mailed through USPS	103	98
Free Distribution Outside the Mail	624	860
Total Free Distribution	727	958
Total Distribution	19,892	17,592
Copies Not Distributed	3,799	3,755
Total	23,691	21,347
Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation	96	95

16. Publication of Statement of Ownership will be printed in the December 2006 issue of this publication. 17. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner: Susan Fitzgerald, Publisher. Date: 9/28/06. I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete.

VOLLEYBALL TUTOR



prices start under \$1,000

Gold Model

- Automatic feed
- Remote control



"Using Volleyball Tutor gives my team significantly more reps each practice."
Ken Preston, Head Coach, UC Santa Barbara

1-800-448-8867 for FREE brochure

www.sportsmachines.com

Sports Tutor, 3300 Winona Ave., Burbank, CA 91504

PowerBall Net

All-In-One Volleyball Training System
No Risk Money Back Guaranteed



Catch & Return



Catch & Drop



Catch & Hold



Target Rebound



Full Net Rebound



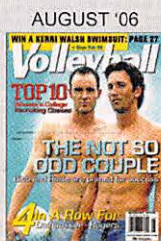
Volleyball Net Only

- Portable stand-alone complete training system
- Quickly sets up in your yard or nearby park
- Train anytime with or without partners
- Train like the pros - hit, hit ... & hit some more
- Stop wasting time & energy shagging balls

PBN Creations
(303) 798-2216

www.PowerBallNet.com

Order your favorite BACK ISSUE of VOLLEYBALL MAGAZINE today at an unbeatable price!



of copies



of copies



of copies



of copies

☐ Other

Date(s) and # of copies

Number of copies	Price per copy	Shipping cost (flat)
1-2	\$6.00	\$3.50
3-5	\$5.50	\$8.00
6-10	\$5.00	\$15.50
11-20	\$4.50	\$22.00
21+	\$4.00	based on volume

My total number of copies: _____

My total price: _____

To order more than 20 copies in the U.S. or to ship any amount outside the U.S., please contact customer service at 617-536-0121.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Telephone _____

Country _____

E-mail Address _____

Payment Method:

☐ Cash

☐ Check

☐ Credit Card

Card Number _____

Exp. Date _____

Cardholder's Signature _____

☐ Visa

☐ MasterCard

☐ Discover

☐ Amex

Payable to Madavor Media, 420 Boylston Street, 5th Floor, Boston, MA 02116

Volleyball Players Wanted

By Hugh McCutcheon

International volleyball is played with great speed and skill. The difference between the top teams in the world is small. And regularly, matches are won and lost by one or two plays. The best players today are “generalized specialists”—players who are good at all of the fundamental skills and great in one or two phases of the game.

One of the most noticeable differences between volleyball players in the USA and those from other top volleyball countries is their ability to play the game. Now, by “play the game” I mean:

- They can execute all of the fundamental skills at a very high level.
- They have correct technique and are biomechanically efficient.
- They make all of the little plays—they cover, they can set out of system, they can dig, etc.
- They make the right choices about where to stand, who to set, where to block, etc.

In short, they can read the game, make good choices and execute the play consistently at a high level.

When players come to the national team we end up spending a significant amount of time trying to turn great volleyball athletes into great volleyball players. We invest this time teaching (and often re-teaching) the fundamentals skills and movement patterns for the following reasons:

- We want the skills to be repeatable. That is, we want our athletes to be able to execute a skill at a high level of proficiency time and time again.
- We want the skills to be as mechanically efficient as possible so the athlete can:
 - 1) Generate as much power as they can.
 - 2) Move as quickly as they can.
 - 3) Jump as high as they can.

We need to instill fundamental “habits” that will allow them to have the greatest possible chance of success in stressful (both physical and mental) conditions.

We have wonderful athletes playing our sport that get by with some small inefficiencies or fundamental weaknesses in their game. These athletes are great players in high school and college because they are physically superior.

However, at the international level, everyone is physically superior—the difference is the athlete’s technical proficiency combined with how well they read and play the game. Usually, when our top collegiate volleyball athletes try and make the transition to the international arena, they come up short.

So, what can we do to bridge this gap?

Let our athletes play as much as they can and, when they are not playing, get them into drills and activities that look a lot like volleyball.



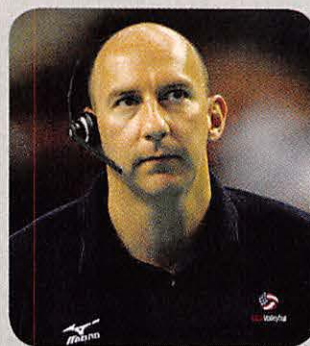
McCutcheon and Team USA were ranked No. 5 in the world heading into the 2006 World Championships.

Spend time teaching everyone on your team all of the fundamental skills.

Teach more than you coach. Give your athletes specific and immediate feedback so they can learn: 1) Great technique. 2) How to “read the game.” 3) How to make the right choices in any given volleyball situation.

In addition, we should strongly consider not letting our younger players become specialized. Perhaps, when our athletes turn 16, we can start having designated outsides, middles, opposites, liberos and setters.

But before then, they should be in a 6-0 offensive system where everyone plays as a server, a passer/hitter (hitting on the right and on the left), a setter, a middle blocker and a back-row defender. This will ensure that our athletes will learn to be good at all of the fundamental skills before they become great at one or two phases of the game. ■



Hugh McCutcheon
is the head coach of the U.S. Men's National Team and is a contributing editor for Volleyball.

If you need to put something in your shoe besides your foot Active Ankle's a good choice

Firm support and freedom of movement at the same time. Active Ankle® gear is easy to get on and comfortable to keep on. It combines the protection a vulnerable ankle needs and the keep-me-in-the-game wearability every competitive athlete demands.

Active Ankle. Originally designed by trainers for athletes in every sport who depend on their ankles.



**ACTIVE
ANKLE®**
ALL-SPORT SUPPORT



800.800.2896 • www.activeankle.com

*She plays the same
team every match,
the Underdogs...*

Misty May

2006 MVP

- Women's MVP
- Team of the Year
- Best Offensive Player
- Best Defensive Player
- Sportswoman of the Year
by Women Sports Foundation

